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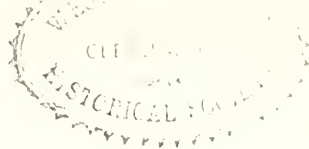
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Griswold family of Connecticut

[by]

([Edward Elbridge] Salisbury,

[1934?]]



1832312

THE GRISWOLD FAMILY OF CONNECTICUT *

WITH PEDIGREE

I

PREFATORY

For the following sketch I have been favored with the use of all the family papers preserved by several generations of the Griswolds of Blackhall; together with some interesting original papers of the Rev. George Griswold of Giant's Neck, now owned by Deacon George Griswold of Niantic; and with some notes for family history by James Griswold, Esq. of Lyme.

I have also had several valuable documents copied for me from the Probate Records of New London and the State Archives at Hartford, the latter through the courtesy of Charles J. Hoadley, Esq., State Librarian. An examination of the collections on the Griswold family made by the late Rev. F. W. Chapman of Rocky Hill, Conn., which were put into my hands by his son Mr. Henry A. Chapman of Hartford, has led to one important discovery, and a few private letters from the father have given me some valuable hints.

Some of the statements respecting Edward Griswold and his descendants were furnished by Judge S. O. Griswold of Cleveland, Ohio, and Hon. William H. Buell of Clinton, Conn., both of whom descend from him. At home I have had a continual adviser and assistant in my wife, who, being of Griswold descent, had, with wonted enthusiasm and perseverance, collected many facts of the family history, and corresponded in our own country and abroad with reference to it, long before it began to be a subject of interest to me for her sake. The printed sources of information, so far as known, have been, of course, freely drawn upon.

It must be understood, however, that I have not undertaken to write a complete genealogy of the Griswolds; my paper has reference, especially, to the male line, and to those of the name most closely associated with Lyme, and was originally intended for the use of a limited family circle—not for the public eye.

The imprints in the notes are in all cases those of the particular *volumes* referred to.

The earliest English settlements on the Connecticut River were nearly contemporaneous, of the same parentage, being all offshoots from the Bay Plantation, and bound together by many ties of intercourse and dependence. It was about the year 1635 that Wethersfield, Windsor, Hartford, and Saybrook were first settled. The latter had its origin in a fortification built by Lion Gardiner, a military engineer from England (who had in that capacity served the Prince of Orange in the Low Countries), and commanded by John Winthrop the younger, under a commission from the Warwick Patentees. This barely secured the site for English occupation against Dutch encroachments. The new cluster of settlements thus formed on the beautiful banks of the Connecticut, winding amid rich meadows ready to the hand of the husbandman, and primitive forests which were stocked with all sorts of game valuable for skins, and opening an attractive

* Copyright, 1884, by Edward Elbridge Salisbury.

*See Magazine of American History
for 1884 - p. 11.*

pathway for trade, both inland and abroad, naturally drew the attention of those in the mother-country whom the usurpations and oppressions of the later Stuarts had forced to make new homes for themselves in these western wilds.

Two brothers of the name of Griswold, Edward and Matthew, came to America "about the year 1639," and settled at Windsor, Conn. The date of their emigration being fundamental, and all that relates to it, and to years immediately following, being of interest, I quote from affidavits of these two brothers, sworn to May 15, 1684, as follows:

"The testimony of Edward Griswold, aged about 77 years, is, that about the yeare 1639 Mr. W^m Whiteing (deceased) was undertaker for a shipp in England, in which shipp I came to New England . . . and at that time many passengers came ouer, severall of which settled at Windsor, and a gennerall expectation there was at that time, as appeared by discourse, of many more passengers to come, and some of note . . . by which meanes land at Windsor, near the towne and redy for improuement, was at a high price. . . . But afterward people that were expected out of England not coming in such numbers as was looked for, and some returning to England,* and others remoueing to the seaside, the lands at Windsor fell very much in price." . . .

"The testimony of Mathew Griswold, aged about 64 years, is, that John Bissell, sometimes of Windsor now deceased, did offer to sell mee al that part of Mr Ludlowe's accomodations, both of houseing and lands, which hee bought of Mr. W^m Whiteing (as hee told mee) which lay on the west side Connecticut Riuer in the townshipp of Windsor . . . and I beeing not accomodated to my mind where I then liued at Saybrook, and haueing kindred of my owne and my wiues at Windsor, was willing to dwell at Windsor . . . also I went and aduised with my father-in-law Mr. Wolcot, who told mee I had bid highenoffe. . . . Further I testifie that, when I came ouer to New England about the year 1639, land was at an high price, and that the price thereof fell very much in some yeares after . . . "†

It will be observed that these documents give us, also, approximately, the important dates of birth of the two brothers—the elder, aged about seventy-seven in 1684, must have been born about 1607; and the younger, about sixty-four years old in 1684, was, of course, born about 1620.

The eminent antiquary Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull, of Hartford, says he "can hardly doubt" that a brother of Edward and Matthew was "Francis Grissell" [or "Mr. Grissell"], to whom reference is made in the Calendar of State Papers (Minutes of a Committee for Providence Plantation), as having applied in England, from July 1635 to Feb. 1636, for remission of the cost of transportation of himself and wife to New Eng-

* Plainly, in consequence of the rising power of the Parliament, before the civil war had operated to drive Englishmen away from their mother country.

† Conn. State Archives, Private Controversies, ii docc. 203, 204. *M.S.*



land,* whence he infers "that Francis Grissell (Griswold) had been at, and had returned to Great Britain from, Providence Island, before July 1635."† Whether it be true or not that this person was a brother of our Edward and Matthew Griswold, which I leave for others to determine, certain it is that Edward had a son named Francis, who will be spoken of further on; and Mr. Chapman entertained the opinion, though it does not appear on what ground, that the grandfather of Edward and Matthew was a Francis Griswold, said to have been of Lyme Regis, Co. Dorset, who had a son George, the father of our two brothers of Windsor.‡

From a valuable document in the New London Probate Office (relating to a lawsuit in which the only son of our first Matthew Griswold was involved), we obtain proof that, beside Edward and Matthew, there was another brother, Thomas by name, who remained in the old English homestead; and the same paper gives documentary evidence as to what part of England the emigrants came from. It deserves to be quoted here, exactly and in full:

"George Griswold, aged about 67 years, testifyeth as followeth—that in his youthfull years he lived with his father in England, in a town called Keillinsworth§ in Warrackshire; he did severall times since hear his father Edward Griswold say that the house they then lived in, and lands belonging thereto, was his brother Mathew Griswold's: and have lately seen a letter under the hand of Thomas Griswold of Keillinsworth above¶, directed to his brother Mathew Griswold aforesaid, wherein the said Thomas Griswold intimated that he did then live in the above said house belonging to his said brother Mathew Griswold aforesaid.

"May 9th 1700. George Griswold appeared before me in Hartford, and made oath to y^e above testimony."

"JOSEPH CURTISS, Assistant."

With regard to the ancestry of the three brothers whom we thus distinctly trace, we have no certain information reaching beyond their father. A deposition lately found among the papers of Rev. F. W. Chapman, "a full and true copy" of an original now lost, enables me to begin the Griswold pedigree one generation further back than it has been hitherto traced. This valuable document is in these words:

"The testimony of Captain George Griswold, aged about 72 years, and the testimony of Mr. John Griswold, aged about 69 years, they both being sons of George Griswold, The

* Calendar of State Papers. Colonial Series. 1574-1600. London, 1860. pp. 214, 215, 221.

† Private letter of Dec. 30, 1881.

‡ Private letter of March 12, 1874. The same letter expresses the belief, without giving any good reason for it, however (as appears from another letter of June 4, 1874), that Michael Griswold of Wethersfield was also a brother of Edward and Matthew; but a document, which will be quoted presently, seems to imply that the father of Edward and Matthew had only one other son.

§ In Queen Elizabeth's time Kenilworth was called Killingworth.

Deponents being both of Windsor in the county of Hartford and colony of Connecticut in New England, is as follows :

"Viz., that our Grandfather's name was Edward Griswold, and it was formerly and has ever since been always accepted and reputed that our said Grandfather's father's name was George Griswold, and the said George Griswold our Great Grandfather had three sons, the eldest named Edward, the second named Matthew, and the third or youngest son named Thomas, and the said Edward the eldest son, and the said Matthew the second son, came into New England from Killingsworth in Warwickshire in England; and in all our discourses amongst the families of said Griswolds in New England, together with other elderly observing gentlemen, they are and have ever been so accepted and reputed to be, without contradiction or gainsaying, according to the best of our remembrance.

"And the Deponents further add and say that the above named Edward Griswold's eldest son has always been called and reputed to be Francis Griswold, without any contradiction or gainsaying as aforesaid that we know of.

"Windsor in Hartford county in Connecticut, New England, personally appeared on the 19th day of January Anno Dom. 1737-8, Captain George Griswold and John Griswold the above named Deponents, and made solemn Oath, in due form of law, to the truth of the above written testimony, before me

HENRY ALLYN

Justice Peace." *

But who was this George Griswold, the father of Edward, Matthew and Thomas, we know not. It has been assumed that our Griswolds belonged to the heraldic family of Greswolds of Solihull, near Kenilworth, Co. Warwick, one of whom, Humphrey Greswold, deceased in 1746, unmarried, was the first of this family who possessed Malvern Hall; † and the arms of that family: *Arg. a fesse Gu. betw. 2 greyhounds current Sa.*, have been used as of right belonging to Griswolds of America.

* This copy was given to Mr. Chapin by Mr. J. S. Griswold of Benson, Vt., whose brother Mr. W. D. Griswold, now of St. Louis, Mo., writes to me respecting the original paper as follows: "As regards the original paper, I remember to have seen it on occasion of a visit I made to my native home in 1811. My Father, then alive, showed it to me, and I read it over and over with great interest, and I then took a copy of it, which I think I have sent to some inquirer, without retaining a copy of the copy. The affidavit was evidently taken in aid of some pending legal proceeding, or in anticipation of some legal use. *It was inherited by my Father with the old papers and mementos of his Father, and that is all that can be said of its history.*" In another letter Mr. Griswold says: "I read it over repeatedly, and critically observed the paper, old and faded, and the writing of style verifying its age." These two Griswold brothers are descendants of Edward Griswold, through his son Francis.

† The late Col. Chester, to whom the question of the English origin of the Griswolds was referred some years since, wrote from London: "I thought I had already explained about the Griswolds of Malvern Hall. The first one who had Malvern Hall was Humphrey G. (son of Rev. Marshall G., descended from the family at Solihull, Co. Warwick), who died unmarried in 1746. It then went to his brother John, who died without issue in 1760, when that branch of the family, in the male line, became extinct. Malvern then went to their sister Mary, wife of David Lewis Esq., then to their son Henry Greswold Lewis, who died in 1829 without issue. Malvern then went to his very distant kinsman Edmund Meysey Wigley, who assumed the name of Greswold. He died unmarried in 1833, and Malvern then went to his paternal uncle Henry Wigley, who also assumed the surname of Greswold, but who never had a drop of Greswold blood in his veins."

A statement has gained some credence, that our Griswold brothers came from Lyme Regis, Co. Dorset, probably for no better reason than because this would afford a plausible explanation of the name of Lyme in Connecticut. But careful search in the records of Lyme Regis, by the Rector in 1874, failed to show that any person of the name ever lived there; while the affidavits of Edward and Matthew Griswold fully establish the fact that their old home was at Kenilworth, Co. Warwick. Now, the Visitation of Warwickshire made in 1619, published by the Harleian Society, gives us twelve generations of the Greswold family, of which the first-named representative was John Greswold "of Kenelworth," who married the daughter of William Hugford of Hulderley Hall *in Solihull*; and the Greswolds continued to be seated at Kenilworth down to the time of the last male descendants mentioned in 1619.* Moreover, John Greswold, of the fifth generation in this Visitation, is named Griswold in the Visitations of Nottingham for 1569-1614 published by the Harleian Society, where the marriage of his daughter Alice to Thomas Dabridgecourt is recorded—showing that the two forms of the name were at an early period interchangeable†; and, what is still more, in the Visitation of Warwickshire for 1619 occurs the name of a George Griswold, in the latest generation there recorded, who may possibly have been the father of our two emigrants. But diligent investigations by Colonel Chester (to whom, however, the fact of the immediate parentage of the emigrants was unknown), by the Rector of Kenilworth in 1874, and among American records, have not enabled us as yet to trace back the line of descent of our Edward and Matthew beyond their father. The parish-register of Kenilworth prior to 1630 was destroyed under Cromwell, and the name of Greswold does not occur in it after 1651. So that, while there is ground for believing that the emigrant brothers belonged to the heraldic family of Greswolds, or Griswolds, there seems to be little probability of its being proved. Colonel Chester concluded that they may have come of a younger branch of that family, but says: "The only possible remaining chance there is for discovering any thing further would be an examination of the wills in the local registry of Lichfield."

* The Publications of the Harl. Soc., vol. xii. The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the year 1619. . . . Ed. by John Fetherston. . . . London, 1877. pp. 60-62.

† The Publications of the Harl. Soc., vol. iv.—The Visitations of the County of Nottingham in the years 1569 and 1614. . . . London, 1871, p. 38.

The parish-records of Solihull, as appears from recent obliging letters of the present Rector, show the following varieties in the form of the name at the dates mentioned :

1539—Griswoolde, 1540—Gryswoolde, 1541—Gresolde, 1547—Grissolde, 1555—Greyswolde, 1561—Grisolde, 1562—Gryswoolde and Gryssold, 1570—Griswolde, 1571—Gressolde, 1575—Greswolde, 1579—Greswoolde, 1590—Greswold, 1593—Gryswold, 1624—Greswold, and Griswold, 1627—Griswoold, 1636—Griswold. For some of these, however, the parish-clerk alone may be responsible.

As has been noticed, our Griswold family possessed lands in fee in England, both before and after the emigration of Edward and Matthew; and we shall see that not only was Matthew (who, having come to the New World in his youth, and married a daughter of the first Henry Wolcott, might be supposed to have been trained by the necessities of colonization, or aided by his father-in-law) prominent in the public affairs of Connecticut from the first; but his elder brother, also, who was thirty-two years old at his emigration, took at once a position of commanding influence. They would seem to have been "born to rule." Besides, if it be a principle of heredity that the characteristics, physical, intellectual, moral and social, of a strongly marked ancestor are repeated in his descendants, so that from the offspring may be inferred what was the progenitor, then, apart from all we know of the first generation of the Griswolds of New England, the qualities developed by succeeding generations of the family have been an accumulating proof that its emigrant ancestors were high-minded, intelligent, Christian "gentlemen." The large views of Matthew Griswold, very much in advance of his time, are illustrated by a record which has just come to light, as follows:

"April 23^d 1663, Hannah Griswold, wife of Mathew Griswold, has a portion of meadow-land in Windsor, Great Meadow, Twelve acres more or less. . . . this comes to her as part of her portion that fell to her by the Last will of her brother Christopher Wolcott Dec^d, out of his Estate that was to be Devided among his Relations; and this parcell of meadow is *allowed by her Husband Matthew Griswold to be Recorded and made over to Hannah his wife, to remain to her and her children, and their Dispose, forever.*"*

We can only wonder at the enterprise, courage and energy of these early pioneers. Matthew Griswold, at the early age of nineteen years, came with his brother Edward to Windsor, among its earliest settlers, then struck out from there to find a new home in Saybrook; then, as if that spot had become too narrow, crossed the "Great River," and made his final settlement as the first man who took up land in Lyme. Perhaps this may have been partly due to the English passion for landed possessions—also, perhaps, to a hereditary longing which could be fully gratified only by first occupation.

In this connection I may most appropriately dispose of a statement, distinctly made or hinted at in different quarters, that the first Matthew Griswold followed the trade of a stone-cutter. The only proofs alleged of this are, first, a receipt given by him, Apr. 1, 1679, now registered at Saybrook, for seven pounds sterling, "in payment for the tombstone of the lady Alice Bottler [Lady Fenwick], late of Saybrook;" and, secondly, the tradition

* Copied by the Town Clerk of Windsor from Records there, in August, 1882.

that the tombstone of his father-in-law, Henry Wolcott of Windsor (who died in 1655)—similar in form and material to that of Lady Fenwick—was obtained by his agency.* As to the receipt, nothing is more likely than that he gave it for money which he had long before paid out as Agent to Gov. Fenwick; and as to the Wolcott tradition, that by no means necessarily means that the monument of Henry Wolcott was a work of his hands. Still, it is possible that Matthew Griswold may have learned the art of stone-cutting in preparation for his emigration—perhaps as a disguise in aid of his expatriation; and that he practiced the art occasionally, as the exigencies of colonial life in a new country made it useful for him to do so, is also possible. But that stone-cutting was his occupation, or trade, there is not the slightest reason to believe; indeed, the supposition is at variance with all that we know of his prominence in the public affairs of his time, and inferable education, or are led to conjecture, from his large acquisitions of land at an early period, of his having given himself, from the first, to agriculture. Evidently he was skilled in laying foundations, and in sculpturing monuments, but it was with materials, and in forms, far more enduring than stone—nay, more lasting than the brass of the mechanic artificer: “*Monumentum aere perennius.*”

But from these general considerations I must now return, to record more in detail what we know of the three brothers, Edward, Matthew and Thomas Griswold, of whom, as has been said, the first two emigrated to America in 1639, and the other remained in England. As to this Thomas, we know, by the deposition of 1737-38 above cited, that he was the youngest son—born, therefore, not earlier than about 1621—but neither tradition nor records give us any additional facts respecting him. The yet existing Kenilworth records (as appears from Mr. Chapman's papers) make mention of “Hanna the daughter of Thomas Grissold,” buried Apr. 8, 1632, of “Mary the daughter of Thomas Grissold,” buried Apr. 20, 1634, and of “Thomas the sonne of Thomas Grissold & Elianor his wife . . . baptized July y^e 30th Anno Dai 1636;” also, of a “Thomas Grissold,” whose wife Joane was buried Jan. 28, 1632 (or 1633), and a “Thomas Grisold,” married to Catharine Norris June 11, 1635—that is, certainly of two, if not more, separate Thomases. But neither of them could have been the brother of Edward and Matthew, because Matthew himself was not more than about sixteen years old at the latest of these dates. On the other hand, he may have been either a “Thomas Grissoid,” who was buried May 5, 1644, or a Thomas, named in the records, who had a son

* History of New London . . . By Frances Manwaring Caulkins. New London, 1852, pp. 173-74; and Memorial of Henry Wolcott . . . New York, 1881, pp. 12, note, and 32.

Matthew born Mar. 1, 1649. The parish-records of Kenilworth, it will be seen, name at least three distinct Thomas Griswolds.

To come, then, to the two emigrants, a tradition remains to be alluded to, that their emigration was in company with the Rev. Ephraim Huet of Windsor, who "had been a minister of Wrexall, near Kenilworth, in Warwickshire, was proceeded against by Archbishop Laud, 1638, for neglect of ceremonies, came next year." * Savage thought this tradition plainly erroneous, for the reason that George, son of Edward, Griswold, in his deposition above cited, testified that he lived with his father in England "in his youthfull years," which, according to Savage, must have extended later than to the year 1639. But the year of Huet's emigration, this very year 1639, being now fixed, independently, as the date of the emigration of Edward and Matthew Griswold, the tradition of their companionship with Huet gains in probability; while Savage's objection is quite set aside by the fact that George Griswold, having been sixty-seven years old in 1700 (as he himself affirmed), was born about 1633, not in 1638—as Savage says—and could, therefore, well speak, when advanced in life, of a time prior to 1639 as having been in the days of his youth.

Edward Griswold, the eldest of the two emigrant brothers, also lived the longest, dying in 1691, as is said, † in his eighty-fourth year. A colonial record of 1649 shows him to have been, at that time, still residing in Windsor, where his sons Francis and George likewise had their families. ‡ It is believed that he removed to Killingworth, now Clinton, Conn., in 1663, and gave to this New England town the name of his old place of residence in Warwickshire. He was a Deputy to the General Court, before this, in 1662. Under the year 1667, as "Mr. Edw. Grissell," he is enrolled a Deputy, and, as "Mr. Edward Griswold," a Commissioner "for Kenilworth." § In 1674 there was a grant made to him of two hundred acres of land, which were laid out, after long delay, in 1682, "at the north end of Lyme bounds." ¶ As "Mr. Edward Griswold" he was Deputy "fr. Killingworth" in 1678, when he was also nominated for election as Assistant, and as Commissioner; represented his town in every Court held from that year on to 1689; and was, during this period, repeatedly made Commissioner. ¶ In 1678 he was on a committee for establishing a Latin School

* General. Dict. . . . By James Savage. Boston, 1860, ii. 490.

† Savage's General. Dict., ut supra, ii. 316.

‡ Public Records of the Col. of Conn. . . . 1636-1665. Hartford, 1850, p. 196.

§ Public Records . . . 1665-1677. . . . Hartford, 1852, pp. 58, 63.

¶ Id., p. 240, and note.

¶ Public Records. . . . 1678-1689. . . . Hartford, 1859, pp. 1, 3, 5, 26, 43, 49, 75, 79, 97.

in New London.* He was the first deacon of the church of Killingworth.

He was twice married: first, in England, to Margaret —, who died Aug. 23, 1670, † and secondly, in 1672 or 1673, to the widow of James Bemis of New London. "Before coming to Windsor he had Francis, George, John and Sarah, probably all born in England, and he had at Windsor" three sons and three daughters—all, as appears by their days of birth or baptism recorded at Windsor, by his first marriage. ‡

His son Francis is found to have been at Saybrook in 1655–56, § but was one of the first proprietors of Norwich, settled in 1660, taking "an active part in the affairs of the plantation;" || and from 1661, inclusive, to 1671, was a Deputy to the General Court. ¶ He died in 1671, ** leaving several children, of whom a daughter, Margaret (b. 1668), married Thomas Buckingham, son of the Rev. Thomas, of Saybrook, in 1691. ††

George, son of Edward, Griswold, was a freeman of Windsor in 1669, ‡‡ and seems to have lived there permanently. He died in 1704, §§ having had sons and daughters. John (b. 1668), son of George, was father of Isaac (b. 1718), who was father of Abiel (b. 1755), who was father of Origen (b. 1785), who was father of Judge S. O. Griswold, now of Cleveland, Ohio. Judge Griswold and his sisters now own a tract of land at Windsor which once belonged to their ancestor George.

Edward Griswold's third son, John, who was born in England, died in 1642; but he had another son of the same name, born in Windsor in 1652, whose grandson Josiah (son of Daniel, b. 1696) was the maternal grandfather of Hon. William H. Buell, now of Clinton, Conn. A daughter of Edward Griswold, Deborah (b. 1646), who married Samuel Buell in 1662, "was the ancestral mother of all the Buells in Killingworth (Clinton), all the Buells east of Connecticut River, and nearly all of Litchfield, Conn." Her husband was the great-grandfather in the fourth degree of Hon. W.

* History of Norwich. . . . By Frances Manwaring Caulkins. Published by the Author, 1866, p. 92.

† "Her gravestone stands in the Clinton Congregational Burying Ground, with the letters M. G., and is called the oldest monument."

‡ Savage's Geneal. Dict., ut supra, ii. 316; and History of Anc. Windsor. . . . By Henry R. Stiles. . . . New York, 1859, p. 640. The existing records of Kenilworth give baptisms of children of Edward Griswold as follows: Sarah, 1631; George, 1633; Sarah, 1635; Liddia, 1637.

§ Caulkins' Hist. of Norwich, ut supra, p. 53.

|| Id., p. 177.

¶ Id., p. 84.

** Id., p. 132.

†† Stiles' Hist. of Anc. Windsor, ut supra, p. 640; and Savage's Geneal. Dict., ut supra, i. 285.

‡‡ Public Records of Col. of Conn. . . . 1665–1677. . . . Hartford, 1852, p. 519.

§§ Stiles' Hist. of Anc. Windsor, ut supra, p. 641.

H. Buell, so that the latter is descended on both sides from Edward Griswold of Killingworth. Edward Griswold's son John (b. 1652) had a son Samuel (b. 1685), whose daughter was the "Mary, daughter of Samuel Griswold Esq. of Killingworth," who married, in 1739, Elihu son of Rev. Nathaniel Chauncey of Durham, Conn., and was the mother of the late Judge Chauncey of New Haven.*

Another son of Edward Griswold, named Joseph (b. 1647), † had a son Matthew (b. 1668), who had a son Matthew (b. 1718,) who had a son Elihu (named, perhaps, from Elihu Chauncey, the husband of his father's second cousin Mary Griswold) who was born about 1750—Dr. Elihu Griswold of Windsor, whose wife Mary (b. 1756) was a daughter of Dr. Alexander Wolcott, son of Gov. Roger Wolcott. ‡ Dr. Elihu Griswold removed to Herkimer County, N. Y., about the year 1800.

MATTHEW GRISWOLD, having come to Windsor, married, October 16, 1646, Anna daughter of the first Henry Wolcott of Windsor, an emigrant from Tolland, Co. Somerset, by Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Saunders, of the adjacent parish of Lydiard St. Lawrence.§ Either before or after the date of his marriage he removed to Saybrook, in the capacity of Agent to Governor Fenwick. The exact year of his removal to the river's mouth cannot now be fixed, but he is said to have been the earliest actual occupant of land within the bounds of Lyme (set off as separate from Saybrook in 1665-66), implying that he had settled there long before this separation. Indeed, his original grant is believed to have emanated from Fenwick, ¶ which would carry us back to 1645, at least, when Fenwick's rights under the Warwick Patent were extinguished by agreement with the colony of Connecticut. ■ Another indication of his having very early become a resident of Saybrook is given by his testimony of 1684, quoted above; for in that he speaks of having thought to leave Saybrook and purchase land in Windsor ("being not accomodated to my mind where I then lived at Saybrook"), ** at a time when land up the river had depreciated in value by reason, as is plain enough, of the prevalence of Parliamentary rule in England lessening the inducements to emigration, before

* See Memorials of the Chaunceys . . . By Wm. Chauncey Fowler. Boston, 1852, pp. 112-13.

† Stiles' Hist. of Anc. Windsor, ut supra, p. 640.

‡ Memorial of Henry Wolcott, ut supra, pp. 77 and 140-42.

§ Memorial of Henry Wolcott, ut supra, p. 11. The Wolcott family of Windsor were of the old English gentry.

¶ Caulkins' History of New London . . . ut supra, p. 72.

■ The History of Conn. . . . By G. H. Hollister. New Haven, 1855, i. 135.

** See above, p. 121.

the progress of events in the old country, culminating in Cromwell's military usurpation, had again tempted the more conservative Englishmen to expatriate themselves—from all which it would appear that he was a resident of Saybrook as early as within the fifth decade of the seventeenth century, though after the middle of October, 1646, because he was already married when he contemplated returning to Windsor.

By the colonial records we find him at Saybrook, first, on the 20th of March, 1649-50, reference being made, under that date, to an answer to a "petition from the inhabitants of Saybrook, presented by Matthew Griswold and Tho. Leppingwell." * He was a Deputy to the General Court in 1654. In the same year Major Mason was deputed to take with him "Matthew Griswold of Seabrooke," and "goe to Pequett and joyne with Mr. Winthrop to draw the line betwene Pequett and Vncus according to the bounds graunted that towne," . . . and indeavo^r to compose differences bet: Pequett & Vncus in loue and peace." † At a Court held May 17th, 1660, it was "granted that y^e Dep: Gouverno^r & Math: Griswold shal lend vnto N. London two great Guns from Sea Brooke wth shot." ‡ In 1661 he headed a committee "to try the bounds of N. London." § Under the year 1663 it is recorded that "Matthew Griswold" and others were to lay out certain bounds "to p^ruent future in-conueniences." || About 1664-65, when Lyme was soon to be set off from Saybrook as a separate town, there arose a dispute between New London and Saybrook as to the westward extent of the former town—whether or not the land between Niantic Bay and Bride Brook, including Black Point and Giant's Neck, belonged to New London. This lasted for several years, when, at length, in 1671, "the town [of New London] annulled all former grants . . . except . . ." but set apart, at "our west bounds at Black Point," a tract of three hundred and twenty-five acres "for the use of the ministry forever," which same tract had been reserved, three years earlier, for the same use, by the town of Lyme. In August, 1671, "the people of both New London and Lyme were determined to mow the gra^ss on a portion of the debatable land. . . . Large parties went out from both towns for the purpose, and, having probably some secret intimation of each other's design, they went on the ground at the same time. . . . The Lyme men, under their usual leaders, Matthew Griswold and William Waller, were in possession of the ground when the other party adyanced. . . . Constables were in attendance on either side, and Messrs. Griswold and Palmes were in the commission of the peace, and could authorize warrants of apprehension on the spot. As

* Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut. . . . 1636-1665. Hartford, 1850, p. 205.

† Id., p. 257. ‡ Id., p. 352. § Id., p. 366. || Id., p. 418.

the New London men approached, and, swinging their scythes, began to mow," the Lyme constable attempted to do his office, supported by his fellow-townsmen, "who came rushing forward waving their weapons;" and he succeeded; when "a general tumult of shouts, revilings, wrestlings, kicks and blows followed." A warrant was issued for the arrest of Griswold, "but he was not captured." The noisy encounter was terminated "by an agreement to let the law decide;" and the General Court ordered a division of the land in dispute, by which the matter was settled.* Such, in substance, is the account of this affair given by the historian of New London, on the authority of testimony taken at the trial of the rioters in March, 1671-72. Family tradition among the Griswolds, however, runs to the effect that the rights of the respective parties were finally made to depend upon the issue of a personal combat between champions chosen on both sides, a son of our first Matthew Griswold, the second of the name, who was noted for his athletic form and great strength, being the representative of Lyme; and that the result was in favor of his town. But this tradition may be only a mythical amplification of the recorded historical facts.†

On the 13th of February 1665-66 the articles of separation between Saybrook and Lyme were signed by Matthew Griswold as one of the committee for the east side. In 1666 he and William Waller were ordered by the General Court "wthin the space of one month to send up to y^e Treasurer a true valuation of all y^e rateable estate of the persons that haue estate in that place called Lyme."‡ He was a Deputy to the General Court in 1667, § and again in 1668, his name having then, first, on the colonial records, the prefix of "Mr.," at that time distinctive of a "gentleman," which afterwards they always give to it.¶ He was chosen Commissioner for Lyme, in 1669, for the ensuing year;‡, in 1676 was appointed with others "to signe bills in theire respectiue plantations, for what is due from the country;"** and in 1677 was temporary Lieutenant of the train-bands of Lyme.†† In May 1678 he was a Deputy for Lyme;‡‡ and the next year was appointed "to grant warrants and marry persons in Lyme for the yeare ensuing."§§ One hundred acres of land were granted to him by the General Court in 1681, "provided he take it up where it may not prej-

* Caulkins' Hist. of New London, ut supra, pp. 166-69.

† The tradition is alluded to, as authentic history, by Dr. Dwight in his *Travels in New England*. New Haven and New York, 1821, ii. 522.

‡ Public Records of Conn. . . . 1665-1677. Hartford, 1852, p. 48.

§ Id., p. 79. ¶ Id., p. 83. ¶ Id., p. 106. ** Id., p. 291. † Id., p. 317.

†† Public Records of Conn. . . . 1678-1689. Hartford, 1859, p. 3.

§§ Id., p. 27.

udice any former grants."* He was a Deputy for Lyme in 1685.† On the 14th of May 1685 ("in the first year of our Sovereign Lord James the Second of England") the township of Lyme received a patent of confirmation, when it was granted, ratified and confirmed "unto Mr. Matthew Griswold, Sen^r, Mr. Moses Noyes, Mr. Wm. Measure, Mr. Wm. Ely, Ln't Abraham Brunson, Sarg^t Thomas Lee and John Lay, Jr., and the rest of the said present proprietors of the Township of Lyme, their heirs, successors and assigns forever." In 1686 the General Court confirmed to him and others a tract of land eight miles square, "lyeing and being near unto Connecticut River, about twelve or thirteen miles up the said River," which had been deeded to them in 1674 by "Captain Sannup (or Sanhop)" of the Niantics.‡ The Court chose him in 1689 to be a Justice of the Peace, or Commissioner, for Lyme, and he held the same office the five following years, successively.§

To these notes from colonial records, mainly showing the public trusts conferred on the first Matthew Griswold, I add a few others from the public records of Lyme and the family-archives, illustrative of the growth of the Griswold landed domain within his time. He was reputed to be the richest man in Lyme. After his death the landed property of the family was increased yet more, until it came, at length, to be an estate almost baronial in extent, stretching along Long Island Sound and elsewhere. So early as in the third generation, as appears from a paper preserved in the family, dated November 2, 1724, Patience Griswold released to her brothers John and George, and to several sisters, her proportion of right and title, as one of her father's legatees, to "about four thousand five hundred and fifty acres, be y^e same more or Less, situate, Lying and being in y^e Township of Lyme." From a plea in answer to a charge of trespass, of the year 1781, by Governor Matthew Griswold—which is among the family papers—we learn that by "the Proprietors of the Common and Undivided Lands in the Township of Saybrook . . . on or about y^e Year 1655 . . . were duly Sever'd and Laid out to Matth^w Griswold Sen^r, then of s^d Saybrook, who then was one of s^d Propriators . . . for him to hold in Severalty as part of his Share and Interest in s^d Common and Undivided Lands," certain lands including a fishery at the mouth of the Connecticut River, on the east side:

"and the said Matth^w Griswold Sen^r soon after Enclosed the same in a Good Sufficient fence, and Continued so Siez^d and Possess^d of the place . . . till the time of his Death . . . and the same Lands . . . with all the appurtenances to the same belonging,

* Public Records of Conn. . . . 1678-1689. Hartford, 1859. p. 93.

† Id., p. 131.

‡ Id., pp. 200-01.

§ Id., p. 252; and Public Records of Conn. . . . 1689-1706. Hartford, 1868, pp. 24, 43, 66, 92, 121.

by sundry legal Descents Descended from the s^d Matth^w Griswold Sen^r to his Great Grand-son Matth^w Griswold Esq . . .”

There can be no doubt that this document refers to a part of the estate, at the mouth of the “Great River,” which has been occupied by the family for seven generations; and it probably fixes the date of the first Matthew Griswold’s beginning to occupy that site as a place of residence. This family home has been always known by the name of Blackhall—a memorial, doubtless, of some familiar English locality. There are several places of the name in England. Here, then, not in the rich alluvial meadows of Windsor, nor on the breezy, but sandy, plain of Saybrook—as limited to the western side of the Connecticut, after the setting off of Lyme—did Matthew Griswold fix his home. He settled upon the extreme point of land that stretches out between Connecticut River and Long Island Sound. It was all “made land,” under the slow processes of nature: the sea had washed up its sand to meet, and be mingled with, the alluvial deposits brought down by the “Great River,” in its progress from Canada to the sea. After all these centuries, the modeling of nature’s forces still appears in the roll and swell of the ground, the hillocks and the eddies. This lower level is near the sea. The land begins to rise toward the north-west; the nearest spur of the northern mountains is to be seen just above the present railroad-station, and follows the Connecticut, with hills, sometimes rolling, often well-wooded, sometimes rocky and precipitous. Another range—the so-called Meetinghouse-Hills—further eastward, runs toward the north. Between these ranges is the tract on which the village of Lyme now stands, in a position much sheltered from the cold winds on the east, north and west, while lying open, on the south, to winter-sunshine and summer-breezes. Long Island stretching along, some miles away, between the main land and the open ocean, cuts off the violence of storms, while not shutting out the freshness of the ocean-air. The seasons are tempered along the shore. Frosts come late, and melt away earlier in the spring than in any other part of New England. The autumn usually lingers long under the golden light radiated from the sun, and reflected from the sea, which, from Newport all along the shore, fills the atmosphere with a halo of beauty.

The land-records of Lyme show an indenture of March 8, 1664, by which the first Matthew Griswold then had deeded to him

“A parcell of Land Lying and beeing uppon Blackhall point, *near the dwelling-house of Matthew Griswold aforesaid** . . . the upland beeing by estimation forty akers . . .

* Showing that Matthew Griswold had a dwelling-house at Blackhall point before March 8, 1664. The original well belonging to it is believed to exist still, within the grounds of Mrs. Charles C.

with all the meadow or marsh-lands thereto belonging, part of which meadow is adjoining to the upland, and part thereof is lying and beeing on the southwest end of the Great Island or Marsh . . ."

Among the family-papers is an original deed of Thomas Leffingwell to Matthew Griswold, dated February 18, 1674, conveying his

"whole accomadations of Lands att Seabrooke, situate, lyeing and being on both sides of Connecticott River, except . . . The p'ticulars of that w^{ch} is sold unto the s^d Mathew Griswell being as followeth: Imp^{rs}, on the west side of the above s^d River the whole right of Commonage belonging unto one hundred & fifty pound Allottment withe the ox-pastour, house & home-Lott; Sec^d, on the east side of the s^d River the whole accomadations belonging unto a two hundred pound Allottment, with such rights, Commonages, priviledges & appurtenances as doe or shall belong thereunto, as also the whole right, title and interest unto and of one hundred pound Allottment which was bought of Francis Griswell* . . . only excepted twenty acers of Land of the first Division where the house stands . . . Resigned unto Francis Griswell . . ."

Another private paper, dated July 11, 1674, records the laying out to Matthew Griswold of "fifty acres more or Less of upland . . . bounded west by the Sea and Bridebrook, East by the land bought of Richard Tousland, south by the Sea, north by the Commons," which seems to be a description of the promontory of Giant's Neck, the home of the Rev. George Griswold, of the third generation, and of a branch of the family descended from him. On the 28th of February, 1676, as Lyme records show, Matthew Griswold gave in a statement of certain lots of land then owned by him, as follows:

"Matthew Griswold Senior, his lotts in the first division of upland & meadow, *where his new dwelling house doth stand*, Containing in Generall about one hundred and forty eight akers and a half . . . and is bounded Northerly by Blackhall river, Easterly by the highway as far as his dwelling house, southerly by Sea, westerly by the Great River. . ."

Of the church, or ecclesiastical society, of Lyme, there are no existing records early enough to show whether the first Matthew Griswold was concerned, or took an interest, in the organization of either. But the First Church of Saybrook possessed, within a few years, a silver communion-cup which was his gift, as the inscription on it: "S. C. C. dono domini Matthew Griswold," attests; though the three initials at the head, probably standing for "Saybrook Congregational Church," would seem to prove the inscription to be of a much later date than the fact it commemorates.†

Griswold, a little to the south of whose residence the first dwelling of the first Matthew Griswold is said to have stood.

* This is, undoubtedly, Francis son of Edward, mentioned p. 122.

† This cup now belongs to the family of the late Deacon William R. Clark of Saybrook.

"Matthew Griswold died in his house at Lyme [September 27, 1698], was buried at Saybrook; his gravestone is not to be found." Mrs. Griswold survived him, and was living September 17, 1700, when she and her son-in-law Abraham Brownson were both cited to appear before the New London County Court, as administrators of her husband's estate; but she had, probably, died before May 22, 1701, when Brownson was summoned alone as administrator, by the same Court. Her age in 1699 was seventy-nine years.*

Matthew and Anna (Wolcott) Griswold had five children, named in the following order in a family-record: Sarah, Matthew, John, Elizabeth, Anna. But neither the family-papers nor the existing public records of Windsor, Saybrook, or Lyme (all of which have been consulted) give us their birth-days, excepting that of Matthew, who was born in 1653. This date being given, it is immediately evident that the order of names, at one point at least, should be changed; for, if Elizabeth was the second child born after Matthew, her birth could not have occurred before 1655, whereas she was first married in 1670—which is quite improbable. Accordingly, I shall assume an order which seems likely to be nearer the truth, as follows:

1. Elizabeth; born, according to corrected order of names, not later than 1652, and, very likely, from the date of her marriage (early marriages being then usual), in that year; who married: 1st, October 17, 1670, John Rogers of New London, Connecticut; 2d, August 5, 1679, Peter Pratt; and 3d, soon after 1688, Matthew Beckwith. She had two children by her first husband: 1. Elizabeth, born November 8, 1671; 2. John, born March 20, 1674; by her second husband she had a son Peter; and by her third marriage, a daughter, Griswold Beckwith.† In 1674 John Rogers, her first husband, departed from the established orthodoxy of the New England churches by embracing the doctrines of the Seventh Day Baptists; and, having adopted, later, "certain peculiar notions of his own," though still essentially orthodox as respects the fundamental faith of his time, became the founder of a new sect, called after him Rogerenes, Rogerene Quakers, or Rogerene Baptists. Maintaining "obedience to the civil government except in matters of conscience and religion," he denounced, "as unscriptural, all interference of the civil power in the worship of God."[‡] It seemed proper to give here these particulars with regard to Rogers's views, because they were made the ground of a petition by his wife for a divorce,

* See her testimony of Jan. 5, 1699, in Col. Records, Private Controversies, v. doc. 145, *MS.*

† Caulkins' Hist. of New London, ut supra, pp. 203-09.

‡ Id., pp. 204-05.

in May 1675, which was granted by the General Court in October of the next year,* and was followed in 1677 by another, also granted, for the custody of her children, her late husband "being so hettridox in his opinion and practice."† The whole affair reminds us of other instances, more conspicuous in history, of the narrowness manifested by fathers of New England towards any deviations from established belief; and of their distrust of individual conscience as a sufficient rule of religious life, without the interference of civil authority. There is no reason to believe that the heterodoxy "in practice," referred to in the wife's last petition to the Court, was aught else than a non-conformity akin to that for the sake of which the shores of their "dear old England" had been left behind, forever, by so many of the very men who forgot to tolerate it, themselves, in their new western homes. Of course, like all persecuted, especially religious, parties, the Rogerenes courted, gloried in, and profited by, distresses. John Rogers always claimed that the Court had taken his wife away from him without reason; both of his children eventually sympathized with their father, and lived with him.

2. MATTHEW (see below).

3. *John*; who died young, s. p.‡

4. *Sarah*; born, according to corrected order of names, not earlier than 1655; who married, probably before 1675, Thomas Colton (not George, as commonly said) §, of Springfield, Mass., by whom she had a daughter Sarah, born September 25, 1678, ¶ a "third daughter" Elizabeth, whose birth-day is unknown, and probably three other children.¶¶

5. *Anna*; born, according to the family-order of names, not earlier, and probably, from the date of her marriage, not later, than 1656; ** who married, September 2, 1674, Lieut. Abraham Brownson (as he himself spelt

* Public Records of the Col. of Conn. . . . 1665-1677. Hartford, 1852, p. 292.

† Id., p. 320.

‡ Anna Griswold and John Griswold appear as witnesses to a deed of sale, among Lyme records, dated Apr. 26, 1681. The association of names and the date identify this John as the son of Anna Griswold—showing that, if not born later than 1654, he lived as long as to his twenty-seventh year.

§ Savage's Geneal. Dict., ut supra, i. 438.

¶ Id., ibid.

¶¶ Rev. Mr. Buckingham of Saybrook testified, Sep. 7, 1699, "that Mr. Griswold gave Elizabeth, third daughter of his daughter Sarah Colton deceased, her *one fifth* of moveable estate. . . ." See Col. Records, Private Controversies, v. doc. 156. *MS.*

** Her gravestone, in the Meeting-House Hill Burying-Ground at Lyme, gives the date of her death (Apr. 13, 1721), without telling her age; but that of her husband, alongside of it, shows that he was seventy-two years old in 1719, when he died. This suits well enough with the supposition that she was born in 1656.

his name) of Lyme. With this marriage is connected the memory of an unhappy lawsuit, in which Abraham Brownson and his mother-in-law united against her only surviving son, the second Matthew Griswold. This suit has left its traces in various public records, but need not be recapitulated here. I notice it only for the reference made in an affidavit given in the case, and now preserved in the New London Probate Office, to certain evidences of property in England which were withheld from Matthew Griswold, as follows:

"Affid. before W^m Ely, Justice of Peace, Nov. 15, 1699, by Henry Meriom—that Brunson told him he had a trunk of writings that were his father-in-law's, which he said that it would vex his brother Mathew Griswold very much. I told him that I heard so . . . and I told him that I believed that there was some weighty concerns in those papers, for money either in this country or in England; he answered that there were some great concerns in them, and that there were some papers there that said Griswold never knew of, and never should . . ."

This concealment of titles to estates was complained of to the General Court by Matthew Griswold, in 1700, "that all those deeds and writings which doe concern all or any of the lands that did belong to his father Mr. Mathew Griswold in his life-time, both in old England and new, are withheld, so that they cannot be entred upon the publick records. . . ."* Had these papers been recorded, they would, in all probability, have thrown some light upon the English ancestry of the Griswolds.

Abraham and Anna (Griswold) Brownson had six children, from one of whom, a daughter Mary (b. 1680), descends the present Chief Justice of the United States, Judge Morrison Remick Waite, as follows: Mary Brownson married, August 26, 1704, Thomas Wait of Lyme (from Sudbury, Mass.); Thomas and Mary (Brownson) Wait had Richard (b. 1711), who married, Jan. 13, 1757, for his second wife, Rebecca eldest daughter of Capt. Joseph Higgins; Richard and Rebecca (Higgins) Wait had Remick (b. 1758), who married, in 1786, Susanna eldest daughter of Nathaniel Matson of Lyme, and sister of the mother of the late ex-Gov. Buckingham; Remick and Susanna (Matson) Wait had Henry Matson (b. 1787), who married, Jan. 23, 1816, Maria daughter of Col. Richard E. Selden of Lyme, and granddaughter of Col. Samuel Selden, a distinguished officer in the army of the Revolution; Henry Matson and Maria (Selden) Waite (so he spelt the name) had Morrison Remick (b. 1816), a graduate of Yale College in 1837, and now the prime expounder of American law. Henry Matson Waite was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Connecticut,

* Public Records of Col. of Conn. . . . 1689-1706. . . . Hartford, 1868, p. 338.

from 1854 till the constitutional limit of age obliged him to retire. "It was . . . in questions of law that his strength especially lay; and his legal erudition, patient research, power of discrimination and terseness of argument, were fully appreciated by an able and learned court."*

MATTHEW Griswold,† the second of the name, born in 1653, followed the footsteps of his father in public life—the "Mr. Matthew Griswold" named in the colonial records of 1696, as Deputy and Commissioner, and in 1697 as Commissioner,‡ being probaby the son, and not the father (considering the age of the latter); and the son being certainly intended by the designation of "Mr. Mathew Griswold" as Deputy in 1704, 1707, 1708, and 1710.§ But his sphere seems to have been more private than that of his father. His father, a few days before his death, deeded to him large estates (not improbably in the spirit of English law, keeping landed property in the male line, and having respect to promogeniture), to which he himself added others by purchase. On the 21st of May, 1683, when about thirty years old, he married Phœbe Hyde, granddaughter of the first William Hyde of Norwich, Conn., and daughter of Samuel and Jane (Lee) Hyde.|| Our most interesting memorials of him are copies of writings of his own. Among these is the following incomplete letter to his sweetheart, revealing much of his character, and worthy to be preserved, not only for its sentiments, but also for the form in which they are expressed:

"DEARE HEART,

"Tender of my most unfayned and Intyre Love to you, hoping you are in good health, &c. Although my present Abilities of body and mind will nott allow mee to Write Largely unto you, as I sho^d be glad to do, yet, having this opportunity, I was desirous to trouble you with a line or two—A Little to Remind you of the unexpected . . . unheard of . . . which I have mett with, In the management . . . the motion of Marriage mad by mee unto yo^rselle, which . . . so very strange that I am att a great Loss . . . of mind to think what the good pleasure of the Lord . . . case as to a fynale Issue; though this I must saye, If I thought you had not Reall Love and Affection for mee I should then think it rather my Duty to desist than to prosed; but as yet I am nott, nor can not bee,

* Conn. Reports . . . of Cases . . . in the Supr. Court. . . . By John Hooker. Hartford, 1870, xxxv. 597-99. Obit. Notice by Hon. C. J. McCurdy; and N. Eng. Hist. and Geneal. Register. Boston, 1870, xxiv. 101-05.

† From this point onward, especially, I have more or less drawn from Chancellor Walworth's treasury of genealogical lore, the Hyde Genealogy. This general acknowledgment is due. But family-papers, monumental records and public archives have enabled me sometimes to correct the Chancellor's statements, though such changes are for the most part made without notice.

‡ Public Records of Col. of Conn. . . . 1689-1706. Hartford, 1868, pp. 155-59; and Id., p. 201.

§ Id., 482; and Public Records . . . 1706-1716 . . . Hartford, 1870, pp. 20, 67, 169.

|| Hyde Genealogy . . . By Reuben H. Walworth . . . Albany, 1864, i. 10.

convinced that It is so, for, as God and thy owne conscience knows very well, when I was fully come to a conclusion in my own minde never to give myself nor you any further Trouble in this matter, yoselfe were pleased to tell mee that unexpected (though welcome) news, that you could not beare the thoughts of a fynale Separation ; and since, when you were last att our side of the River, you told mee the same thing, besides many things which you have in discourse told diverse of youre owne best freyns, which gave them grounds to conclude that you had special Love for my person. If I had thought that these things had been false, I must have Judged of . . . according to the . . . which would have commanded a period to all proceedings of this nature ; but contr I believed thee, and accordingly concluded that hee which had Incindled this Love in Thee would increase It, and in his good Time bring us together in the Relation of man and wife, and hereupon gave my affections their full scope, concluding not only that I mite, but that it was my duty to, Love her intirely for whose Sake I should forsake Father and mother, and, as I told you when I last spake with you, I shall nott att this time Release any promise (and you to mee, I should nott suffer for yo^r Sake) which has past between us, though I cannot desire you should proceed to Joyne yourself In marriage with mee on the account of pittie. I desire to look to God who is able to give mee . . . to all his gracious promises which wo^{ld} be matter of comfort . . . (for so they are . . . I would desire you^{ld} not forgett how willing I have been, according to my Cappacity and opportunities ; so then, in kindness and in way of Requital, faure mee with some Lynes.

I shall not enlarge att present, but, desiring that the Good Lord would graciously guide us to that which may tend to his glory and our own everlasting peace, I take leave and Remain thine, and thine only, in the bonds of Intire Affection, M. G."

He also wrote verses, of limping gait, indeed, but which, not the less for that, remind one of hymns by famous poets of his age, such as Donne and Herbert, as if he might have been not unfamiliar with them. Two fragmentary specimens, inspired, as the foregoing letter was, by his love, must suffice:

" And grant me this
Token of bliss—
Some lynes for to peruse with speed,
That may to mee
A Token be
You doe mee choose in very deed."

" Deceit is lothsome though in matters small,
And guile in things which are but trivial ;
But when the case amounts to such a height
To be of such concernment & such weight,
Those that will then Intentionally deceive
Shall sure a curse as their Reward receive.

" Then find it true and nott a lie
Hee's thy best friend that speaks out playne :
My deare, take heed,
And make great speed,

Lest thou give God no Just offence ;
 Then for my part
 A loving heart
 From thee shall bee large Recompense.

But we have a fuller disclosure of character, as well as a story of romantic adventure, and of remarkable Providential overruling of evil for good, in a letter of his, dated November 8, 1712, at Lyme, to Rev. Cotton Mather, relating what had befallen his eldest son, thrown, by his own fault, amid the hazards of war of the the Spanish succession.*

This very interesting document reads as follows (the italicizing being in the printed copy used) :

"SIR,

"Tho' I am an Utter Stranger to You, yet, considering that it ought to be the chief and continual care of Every Man *To glorify God*, I thought it my Duty humbly to present unto you the following Narrative, desiring you to improve it as God shall direct.

"This last *October*, 'tis Five years since, my Eldest Son, having a vehement Desire to go to Sea, and concluding that I would not consent unto it, took an opportunity to make his Escape whilst I was attending the General Court. I used utmost Endeavours to recover him, but he got off from *Piscataqua*, Leaving me Sorrowfully to think what the Event might prove, of a *Child's wilful forsaking the Duty of his Relation and the Means of Grace, and ingulfing himself into the Temptations of a Wicked World*. And I was the more concerned because he had been but a very *Weakly Lad*. They had not been long at Sea before they were Surprized by a dreadful Storm, in the Height whereof the Captain ordered my Son to one of the Yard-Arms, there to Rectify something amiss, which whilst he was performing he wholly lost his Hold ; But catching hold on a loose Rope he was preserved. This proved a very Awakening Providence, and he Looked at the Mercy as greatly Enhanced by reason of his *Disorderly Departure*. Arriving at *Jamaica* he was soon Pressed aboard a *Man of War*, from whence, after diverse Months of *Hard Service*, he obtained a Release, tho' with the Loss of all the Little he had. He then fell in with a *Privateer*, on board whereof he was Exposed unto Eminent hazard of his Life, in an hot Engagement, wherein many were killed, and the Man that stood next unto him was with a Chain-Shot cut all to pieces. In the time of this Fight God caused him to take up Solemn Resolutions to Reform his Life, which Resolutions he was enabled, thro' Grace, to observe. And he then Resolved that he would Return as soon as might be *to his Father's House*. After a Skirmish or two more he was cast away. Then he was taken by the French, and turned ashore at the Bay of *Honduras*, where he with fifteen more were taken by a Party of Spanish Indians who were Led by a Spaniard. Having

* A tract suggested by the facts of this narrative was written by Cotton Mather ; and published under the following title : " Repeated Warnings. Another Essay to warn Young People against Rebellions that must be Repented of . . . With a Pathetical Relation of what occur'd in the Remarkable Experiences of a Young Man who made an Hopeful End lately at Lyme in Connecticut Boston, 1712." A copy of this "very rare" pamphlet is in Yale Collage Library, from which I have taken the narrative.

their Hands now tied behind them, and Ropes around their Necks, they were in that manner led unto a Place called *Paten*, Six hundred Miles distant from the place where they were taken, and very far within the Land, having no Food but Water and the *Cabbage* that grows upon Trees. My Son had at that time the *Fever and Ague* very bad, so that many times every step seemed as though it would have been his last. Yet God marvellously preserved him, while Three men much more likely to hold the Journey than himself perished on the Road. Upon their Arrival to the End of their Journey they were fast chained, two and two ; and so they continued Eight Months confined, and Languishing in Exquisite Miseries. My Son was visited with the *Small Pox* while he was in these Wretched circumstances.

" In this time time two Godly Ministers came to see my Family, and One of them then putting up a fervent Prayer with us, on the behalf of my Absent Child, he was directed into such Expressions that I was persuaded that the Prayer was not lost, and that my Poor Son was then in some Remarkable Distress. Noting down the Time, I afterwards found that, at the Time when this Prayer was made, my Son was then in Irons, and had the *Small Pox* upon him. I observed some other Things of this Nature which Modesty directs to leave unmentioned. Innumerable Endeavours were used in this Time, by the Father Confessors, to perswade them to turn Papists, Sometimes Promising them Great Rewards, at other times threatening them with the *Mines*, and with *Hell*. Some of these Miserable men became Roman Catholicks. Hereupon the man who took them Petitioned the Viceroy for a Liberty to Sell them into the Mines ; which was very likely to have been granted. But there happening an Irreconcilable Difference between the Governour of the Place and him, the Governour then wrote to the Viceroy, informing him that they were honest men, taken by the French and turned ashore, having no ill Intention against the Spaniards. The Viceroy hereupon sent a special Warrant that they should all be Released, and care taken to send them down to the Seaside, there to be put aboard some Spanish Ship, and sent to *Old Spain*, there to be delivered unto the English Consul. The New Proselytes, learning of this, took to their Heels, met them on the Road, went with them for *Old Spain*, leaving their New Religion behind them, together with a Wife which one of them had married ; and became as Good Protestants (to a trifle, if I mistake not) as they were before. They were put aboard Spanish Ships, and carried Prisoners to *Campesha*, and several other Places in the *Spanish Indies*, waiting till the Plate-fleet went home. My Son with some of his Companions were put on board of one of the *Galcons*. In the Voyage to *Spain* he was Seized with a dreadful Fever. The Doctor, having used his best means for him, a considerable time, at last pronounced him *past Recovery*. However, he let him Blood, and afterwards the Vein opened of itself, and bled so long that all his Blood seemed to be gone, and he lay for Dead. The Bleeding stop't, and so he Quickly Recovered. The Captain of the *Galcon* told him he had no Child, and, if he would Embrace the Catholick Faith, and be Baptized into it, and Partake of the Mass, he would immediately give him Three hundred Pounds, and put him into as good a Way to Live as he could wish for. Then the *Pious Instructions* of a *Godly Mother*, long since gone to a better World, were of Precious use to him. For, tho' he was then Lame (and not long after in danger of losing his Leg) he was Enabled to sleight all these Temptations, and put his Trust in the Providence of God. I must wish that such Experiences as these might stir up *Parents* to be more careful in *Catechising their children*, and that You, or some Powerful Person, would move the Authority that, if it be possible, some more Effectual Course may be taken for the Instructing of Youth.

"My Son was Landed at *Cadiz*. From thence, by the Good Providence of God, he got a Passage to *Portugal*. From thence to *New-foundland*. From thence to *Nantucket*, And a Cure for his Leg. Here I may not omit my Thankful Acknowledgment of the Kindness of some Good People whose Hearts God stirred up to have Compassion on my Child in his Low Estate. There was a Gentleman of *Boston* who had some Lameness in his Knees (whose name I have forgot): He in the Voyage from *New-foundland* to *Nantucket* supplied him with Money, and was very kind to him. At *Nantucket* several were exceeding kind to him, Entertained him at their Houses, gave him Monies and Garments. When I revolve the Charity of these Good People, it often makes me think of what we read Mar. xiv. 8, 9. But I have not as yet had an opportunity in the least to retaliate their Kindness. My Son coming to *Rhode Island* got a Passage home from thence by Water.

"Thus, after Four Years were near Expired, I received my Son, The truest Penitent that ever my Eyes beheld! This he freely manifested both in Public and in Private. Whilst as yet in perfect Health, he took diverse Opportunities to discourse privately with me. Once he told me *He verily believed he had but a very little time to live*; Said he, *Tho' I am in perfect Health, I believe I have but a very little Time remaining. And, since God has been Exceeding Merciful to me, I greatly desire to spend the Remainder of my Time very much to His Glory.* In farther Discourse he told me that a Man, whom he then named, had formerly done him Great Wrong, and that he had often resolved to revenge himself. Said he, *I now freely forgive him.* He added, *I have not in my Childhood behaved myself so Respectfully towards such a Man (whom he also named) as I ought. I must take a Time to beg his Pardon.* And upon Enquiry I since find that he did so. He now quickly fell sick; and he now said to me, *Sir, my Business home was to make my Peace with you and to Dy.* I asked him with what Comfort he could look Death in the face. He answered me, *My most dear Father, I will hide nothing from you. When I was in Irons at Paten, I had a clear Manifestation of the Love of God in Jesus Christ unto me. I had after this no Burden remaining on my Conscience, but only my wicked Departing from you. For which cause I Earnestly begged of God that I might Live to see your Reconciled Face. This I now do, and I bless God for it. Had it not been for that one thing, I would much rather have chosen at that Time to have died than to Live. I could now desire to Live, if God please to grant it, that I may Glorify Him, and be a Comfort to you in your Old Age. But I think you will find it otherwise.* When I perceived that he drew near his End, I Earnestly desired, if it might be the Will of God, that he might have some Promise in the Word of God fixed on his Mind at the Time of his Departure. And after I had spake to him, Endeavouring to gain his stedy Attention, I said, *'At what time a Sinner'—'Altho' your Sins have been as Crimson'—'There is a Fountain'—'Ho, every one that thirsteth,'* With other Scriptures; in all which I purposely left out the Latter part of the Text, which he readily fill'd up, and made the sense complete. I then, turning to a Friend, said, *Here is great Ground of Thankfulness! You see he is no Stranger to these Promises; I hope he has improved them in the Time of his Adversity.* He readily replied, *That I have! many and many a time, God knows.* He Lived not long after this. His whole Conversation for the Eight Weeks (which was all the Time he lived after his Return Home) was Exceeding Exemplary. Then the Lord was pleased to take from me a Son in whom I hoped to have Enjoyed a Blessing.

"If this Account may quicken Parents in Well Teaching and Establishing their

Children in the Fundamental Truths of Religion, and may admonish Children to take heed of Running Undutifully from their Parents, and Irreligiously from the Means of Grace, and may Encourage those who do so, yet humbly, in their Distress, to Cry unto God, adhere to His Truth, and hope in His Mercy, I have my End. And I have nothing further to trouble you with, but to ask your Prayers, that I and all Mine may be humbled, sanctified and quickened to Duty to God, our own Souls, and one another, by all His Dispensations.

I am R. Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

*"Lyme in Connecticut,
Novemb. 8, 1712."*

M. G."

When this last letter was written, the "Deare Heart" of the lover's epistle, before quoted, against whose sportive playing of fast and loose, to try his constancy, his own simply loyal nature seems to have possessed no weapons of defence but a somewhat too serious tone of remonstrance, had for several years rested from her labors of love as wife and "godly mother" (having died November 29, 1704); and Matthew Griswold had married secondly, May 30, 1705, Mrs. Mary Lee, widow of the first Thomas Lee of Lyme, *né* De Wolf. He died January 13, 1715, and was buried in the Duck River Burying-Ground at Lyme. His last wife survived him till 1724, when she was laid beside him.

He had eleven children, all by his first marriage:

1. *Phæbe*; born Aug. 15, 1684; who died in 1702, unm.
2. *Elizabeth*; born Nov. 19, 1685; who died in 1704, unm.
3. *Sarah*; born Mar. 19, 1687-88; who died Jan. 4, 1760, unm.
4. *Matthew*; born Sept. 15, 1688; who died in 1712, unm.—the "prodigal son," returned to his father's house.
5. JOHN (see below).

6. *George*; born Aug. 13, 1692; a graduate of Yale College in 1717; who married: first, June 22, 1725, Hannah, daughter of Nathaniel Lynde of Saybrook, Conn., descended from a branch of the great English Roman Catholic family of Digby, and probably from the van der Lindens of Holland; and secondly, July 20, 1736, his second cousin Elizabeth Lee (granddaughter of the first Thomas Lee of Lyme by his first wife), who died in 1758.

It is interesting to notice the probability that the first marriage of George Griswold was due to an acquaintance formed in his college-days—for the Collegiate School, which became Yale College, was at Saybrook up to the very year of his graduation; and Nathaniel Lynde had been one of its chief patrons and its first Treasurer. George Griswold's name heads the list of members of his class, five in number, arranged, as usual in early

times, according to reputed social rank. He was graduated with the second honor. His salutatory oration now lies before me, in his own handwriting, the oldest Yale College document of this sort known to exist, the next to it in age being the valedictory oration delivered by the elder President Edwards at his graduation in 1720. Due regard to the scholarship of this ancient graduate of Yale, and the interest attaching to so valuable a relic of the infancy of the College, as well as of an early period in the history of the Colony of Connecticut, justifies my giving here its exordium, and some other passages, in the original Latin. Its Latinity, though occasionally faulty, challenges comparison with that of the fifth part of any class graduating in our day:

"Nobilissimi, amplissimi, atque etiam spectatissimi auditores, omni observantiâ colendi, laudibusque maximis laudandi, hancce orationem, quoad queo, quamvis non eo modo ornatam prout me oportet, vobis medullitis consecrare volui—in quâ exoptamus ac precamur manum divinam beneficia vobis pro vestris meritis conferre. Vestrarum virtutum profunditas non potest a nobis exquiri, nec vos in nostrâ oratione congrue saluari, propter Ioseculorum Rhetoricæ inopiam in eâ repertam; nec assumimus aliquid de vestris virtutibus garrere, quod . . . vos omnibus maximisque splendoribus animi ac corporis præditi estis, et divinâ humanâque doctrinâ ornati.

"Vestra præsentia maximum decorem summumque nitorem huicce diei adfert, qui supremo gaudio lætitiâque nos gaudere efficit, quem terræ quotidianæ indefatigatæ rotationes tandem tulerunt. O felix dies, O felix tempus in quo noster microcosmus omnem ejus gloriam induit, ac ejus splendore resplendet, representatque macrocosmum; hic dies est præferendus, omnibusque præponendus, ac ad dextram omnium aliorum consedere debet. Invocentur omnes Musæ canticum lætissimum cantare, et coelestes terrestresque inhabitatores in hujus diei celebratione unanimiter conspirent. O excellentissime dies, tantâ pompâ, tali amplitudine ornate, in quo doctrina solio summae dignitatis sese tollit ab alto, ac ineffabili luce sese omnibus illustrat. O illustrissima præsentia doctorum, o quam tantopere gaudemus per læctum atque jucundissimum hujusce diei spectaculum aspicere, in quo magnates primitusque nostræ Reipublicæ cum profundissimo doctorum concursu congregantur . . . Ut hujusce diei pompa gloriaque auferentur, impediât aliquid terræ motioem, ut sol nobis immobilis stare videatur, quasi ab ejus cursu desisteret, quasque vultu placido nostra negotia prospiceret, ne corpora coelestia, terrestria aliquo contagio homines offenso afficiant [*i. e.* To increase the pomp and glory of this day, *may the earth's motion be impeded, so that the sun may appear to us to stand still*, as if desisting from its course, and taking note of our affairs with placid face, lest celestial or terrestrial bodies should smite men with any contagion]. Sed omnia consentiunt aliquid splendori literarum conferre. Studiis literarum intellectus non tantum dilatatur, sed etiam voluntas regulatur: humanitas urbanitasque ex regulis ejus colliguntur. Philosophus non tantum rerum cognitione et intelligentiâ super alios eminere solet, sed et morum præstantiâ, nam doctrina 'emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros.' Sicut virtus voluntatem, sic rerum scientia intellectum perficit. O quid dicemus, o quibus argumentis ratioeinabimur, ut homines stipulemur justos labores pro literarum acquisitione suscipere; a quibus ignavitate deterrentur! Sed si finis coronat opus, fructus beneficiæque e studiis literarum profluentia pro maximis difficultatibus in eâ acquirendâ ferendis sufficienter satisficient."

His address to the Governor of the Colony is, in part, as follows :

"Sed ne tempus tereremus, ac omnibus et singulis, prout ordo tam doctrinae quam virtutum requirit, orationem nostram hunc in modum omni submissione publice indicamus: Imprimis honoratissimo, praecellentissimoque viro, doctissimo domino Gurdon Saltonstall armigero, gubernatori Coloniae Connecticutensis, quasi super genua flecta nostram orationem praebemus [*i. e.* First of all, to Mr. Gurdon Saltonstall, bearer of heraldic arms, Governor of the Colony of Connecticut, we tender our discourse *as on bended knees*], qui est homo praestantissimus, permultus, permagnis preciosissimisque facultatibus tam animi quam corporis indutus, quibus non tantum honor huicce Coloniae adfertur, sed etiam in peregrinis regionibus fama ejus semper magis ac magis vagatur; eximius fulgor ejus gloriae soli similis coruscationem stellarum omnium quae ipsi praecesserunt obscurare videtur. O fons sapientiae, quam plurimas leges tulisti, sapientissimo consilio consultus, quarum observantia ad Republicae commodum plurimum tendit! Legibus tuis requirimur ac dirigimur utiles esse patriae, Coloniae et societatibus in quibus collocamur. Domine clarissime . . . o quam jucundum est nobis aspicere hominem omnibus ac singulis virtutibus ornatum in summo imperii statu illatum . . . mansuetudo tua, civilitas affabilitasque erga inferiores cum admiratione aspiciuntur [*i. e.* Most illustrious Sir . . . thy gentleness, courtesy and affability to inferiors are beheld with admiration]. O benignitas ineffabilis quae tuis actionibus erga omnes exprimitur . . . omnes tuae actiones in summâ justitiâ initiantur, summâque aequitate consummantur . . . Quid ultra possumus cogitare, quid ultra possumus dicere dignum praedicari, de tali illustrissimo atque etiam fidelissimo gubernatore? sed tantum praecavi quod laudes operum tuorum, pro quibus tibi immortales agimus gratias, in perpetuum vivant in ore viventium."

In a similar strain of eulogy he next addresses the Lieutenant-Governor and other magistrates of the body politic; and then the reverend curators of the "Academy," thus:

"Omnis splendore generis, eruditione, prudentiâque praeclarissimis dominis, patronis ac fautoribus honorandis hanc orationem salutatioriam omni animi subiectione consecrare volumus—viris sapentiâ pietateque praeditis, quorum curae ac inspectioni munera publica, tam ecclesiastica quam scholastica, committuntur, in quibus muneribus sic semetipsos gesserunt ut omnium admirationem acquisiverunt. O fidelissimi Evangelii ministri, a Christo constituti ad verbum ejus praedicandum, ecclesiamque ejus regendam, O homines peritissimi, tam in ecclesiâ congregandâ quam conservandâ, vestra munera tam bene perfungimini quam laudibus altissimis laudari meremini, benedictiones plurimorum in vestra capita quiescunt, propter consolationes illis per vos divinitus commissas; vestrorum laborum fructum videtis, coque gaudetis, vestris instructionibus ac directionibus plurimi ad Deum conversi fuerunt. O quam confirmatam ac corroboratam ecclesiam habemus ex verbis vestrorum labiorum quotidie nutritam! Vester amor benignitasque erga eam tam magna quam multa sunt quod ea debet Deo benedicere, ac vos extollere, propter vestram benevolentiam ei largitam. Beneficia ecclesiastica una cum scholasticis grato animo recipimus."

Then the learned Rector, Samuel Andrew, is similarly saluted, in an address ending with these words:

"Sed etiam haec academia summo honore summoque splendore ac laudibus dignissimis a tali Rectore coronatur, qualis singulis ac omnibus doctrinae ornamentis, et maximâ

animi fortitudine, decoratur, a cujus illuminatione nostra academia cum summis academiis literatis contendere audet ; tanta enim sunt ejus erga nos merita quanta a nobis remunerari non possunt, sed tantum gratissimo ac deditissimo animo agnoscere."

The other instructors, *four tutors only*, one a graduate of four years standing, and two of only three years—the most conspicuous of whom were Samuel Johnson, afterwards President of Columbia College, and Elisha Williams (though not a graduate of Yale, the successor of Cutler in the presidency) are saluted as follows :

"Proximoque serenissimis ac non uno literarum genere doctissimis illis viris, omnium disciplinarum scientiâ præditis, nostris nempe vigilantissimis institutoribus orationem omni salute præbemus, qui . . . ad culmen doctrinae attigerunt, artemque a capite ad calcem investigaverunt [*i. e.* Next, to those most august men, most learned in all branches of letters, endued with knowledge of all sciences, our most vigilant instructors, do we address ourselves with every salutation—to them *who have reached the pinnacle of learning, and have investigated the principles of science from top to bottom*]. O Musarum fautores, omnibus doctrinae dotibus induti, qui alios videre pro scientiâ studiosissime quaerentes magnopere delectant, qui a nullâ industriâ nulloque labore abstinuerunt liberalia principia artium in nos instillare ! . . . O generosissimi homines, nobis benignissimi, omnibus illos amabiles reddentibus induti, summâque docendi facultate præditi, in quâ unusquisque doctorum nobis præambulavit ! Domini clarissimi, benevolentiam omnium sub vobis doctrinam quaerentium adepti fueritis ; propter beneficiorum tam permagnorum quam permultorum collationem, flumina scientiæ a labiis vestris ad nos profluerunt ; distillationesque optimæ ac exoptatæ doctrinae in nos quotidie ceciderunt. O utinam nos negligentia oblivioneque non affectos fuisse ! quam corroborati, quam confirmati in rebus utilissimis ac nobis necessariis fuissetis, quibus propter nostram incuriam tantum in durâ matre imbuimur. Pro his beneficiis nobis gratuito collatis maximam gratiarum redditionem reddimus."*

With which of the reverend pastors of the Colony, whose learning and virtues were so highly extolled by the young graduate, he studied, after the manner of his time, to prepare himself for the ministerial office, we are not informed. He began preaching at East Lyme in 1719; the next year provision was made for his continuing there, and on the 30th of January, 1724, according to the church-records, he was invited to settle for life. Upon his acceptance of this call a church was organized, and he was installed Pastor. Of his ministerial life there exist, happily, some memorials, in notes of sermons, dated from 1721 to 1758, and other original memoranda. The handwriting of the sermons, however, is so minute and faded with age that I shall give a specimen of only one of them, preached 1757-58, on the text : "For what shall it profit," etc., Mark viii. 36, 37 :

* The original manuscript of this oration is now deposited in the library of Yale College, a gift from Deacon George Griswold of East Lyme, Conn., great-grandson of the author.

"If the soul be so precious as has been shewn, from the word but now read, then take heed of abusing your souls. Christians, God hath given you souls that sparkle with divine beauty—oh, do nothing unworthy of your souls, do not abuse them! There are divers sorts of persons that abuse their souls. You degrade your souls that set the world above your souls, who 'pant after the dust of the earth'—as if a man's house were on fire, and he should take care to preserve the lumber, but let his child be burnt in the fire. They degrade and abuse their souls that make their souls lackeys to their bodies; the body is but the brutish part, the soul is the angelical; the soul is the queen-regent who is adorned with the jewels of knowledge, and sways the scepter of liberty: oh, what a pity is it that this excellent soul should be made a vassal, and be put to grind in the mill, when the body in the mean time sits in a chair of state! Solomon complains of an evil under the sun—Ecc. x: 7, 'I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth'—is it not an evil under the sun to see the body riding in pomp and triumph, and the soul of man, a royal and heaven-born thing, as a lackey walking on foot? Persons abuse their souls that sell their souls; the covetous person sells his soul for money; as it is said of the lawyer, he hath a tongue that will be sold for a fee, so the covetous man hath a soul that is to be set for sale for money; Achan did sell his soul for a wedge of gold; Judas did sell his soul for silver . . . The ambitious person sells his soul for honors, as Alexander the 6th did sell his soul to the devil for a popedom; and what is honor but a torch lighted by the breath of people, with the least puff of censure blown out? how many souls have been blown to hell by the wind of popular applause! The voluptuous person sells his soul for pleasure; one drowned himself in sweet water, so many drown their souls in the sweet, perfumed waters of pleasure. Plato called pleasure the bait that catcheth souls. . . . They abuse their souls that put in the soul's error is a sweet poison, it is the invention of the devil; you may as well damn your soul by error as vice, and may as soon go to hell for a drunken opinion as for a drunken life. You abuse your souls that starve your souls; these are they that say they are above ordinances, but sure you shall not be above ordinances till you are above sin. . . .

"And now, my brethren, who would serve so unprofitable a master as sin is? . . . let me expostulate the case with the ambitious man, who aspires unto great dignities, honours and promotions in this world: what are all these in comparison of his soul? many have great titles, honourable names in this world, who shall be degraded of all in the world to come! what is honour? it is but momentary; what would rich coats of arms, great dignities, preferments, honours, popular observance advantage your precious soul? The apostle tells, 'Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble [are] called, but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world:' he doth not say 'not any'; some are ennobled by a spiritual as well as a natural birth, but oft-times great dignities, preferments, honours, promotions, are clogs and hindrances to the soul . . . wherefore, then, should any man labour more for greatness than goodness, preferring favour of men before the favour of God, high places on earth before the high places in heaven? . . ."

At the same time that he ministered to his own parish, he preached for several years to the neighboring Indian tribe of the Niantics, having a commission as missionary to them from the Commissioners for Propagating the Gospel in New England and parts adjacent in America. A record of services under this commission, kept by him from 1744 to 1746, shows

that in those years he gathered Indians together, for religious instruction, as often as from two to five times monthly, usually in numbers from twenty to forty. In this connection a vote of the Commissioners, in 1757, is somewhat significant, that, considering it "likely the Indians of Niantic might be brought more generally to attend the Rev. Mr. Griswold's lectures, *in case they were less frequent*, the said Mr. Griswold be informed that the Commissioners would have him, for the future, to preach a lecture to them only once a fortnight, instead of doing it weekly as at present." Doubtless an assembly of Indians might try the powers of any preacher, and Mr. Griswold was, at this time, no longer young; yet, to judge by those of his sermons which remain to us, he probably was not gifted with that natural eloquence which has ever been so highly appreciated, as well as exemplified, by our native Indians. Nor could he have had the pathos of a David Brainerd, whose deeply compassionate appeals to the dusky children of the forest at Stockbridge were often answered by tears. Upon the whole, however, his ministry must have been more than ordinarily useful, if we may judge by the following contemporaneous obituary : *

"Lyme in Conn., 19 Oct., 1761.

"On Wednesday last died the Rev^d Mr. George Griswold, of y^e 2^d Society in Lyme, after more than Seven Weeks Painful Illness, in y^e 70th year of his age, and in y^e 37th Year of his Ministry.

"He was a Grave, Judicious and Godly Divine, very Laborious and Successful in his ministry : he was a Branch of an Honorable family in y^e town ; Early under very Serious Impressions of Religion, and Received a Remarkable Change by the Grace of God, about y^e 15th or 16th Year of his Age, which is supposed the Beginning of the Divine Life in his Soul. Thenceforward it was y^e reigning Care, and Business and Pleasure of his Life to Serve God, and do Good to mankind. He had early a thirst for Learning, which was now increased in him, and was gratified in a Liberal Education, by which he prepared for y^e Great Work for which he was designed of God. He entered the Ministry under various Discouragements, but was engaged to undertake it from an animating Love to God, to immortal Souls, and to y^e Sacred Work, which of Choice he preferred to any of y^e Employments of this World. He was very vigilant and Diligent and Laborious in fulfilling his Ministry among the People of his Charge and to y^e Niantick Indians, whom he had y^e Care of for many years. The Chief Subjects of his Preaching were y^e great Doctrines of y^e glorious Gospel ; his Manner was plain and Solemn, and his evident Aim to win Souls, and to direct and engage to Christian Practice ; and his Labours were Blessed of God to y^e Good of Many. He was an excellent Christian of y^e Primitive Stamp, of great humility and Guileless

* I copy what seems to be the original draft. Its chirography, compared with that of Rev. Jonathan Parsons of Lyme, leads me to conjecture that he was the author of it. He was a near neighbor and ministerial associate of Rev. George Griswold for fourteen years, and his nephew by marriage ; and the two were in close sympathy with each other, theologically. Although Parsons had ceased to reside in Lyme after 1745, family-ties must have brought him there often, as long as he lived.

1917
 Integrity in his Walk before God and Man, a lover of God and good men, fervent in his Devotions, given to hospitality, and very exemplary in all Christian Duties, both relative and Personal, as a husband, Parent, Neighbour, friend, a Shining Example to y^e Believers, in Word and Doctrine, in Conversation and Charity, in Spirit, faith and Godliness, Purity, Peaceableness, Righteousness and every Good Work. Extremely temperate in all things, of eminent Patience and Meekness, which Shone out in him, with an amiable Lustre, in the Severe and long trials with which it pleased God to exercise him, especially for many latter years of his Ministry; and in his Last Illness Christ was all his dependence, and had much Peace and comfort in believing, to y^e Last.

"A well adapted Sermon was preached at his funeral By y^e Rev^d Mr. Jewett to a large and afflicted Auditory, from John i: 47, 'Behold,' etc."

He died October 14, 1761. By his marriage to Hannah Lynde he had two sons, George and Sylvanus (afterwards the Rev. Sylvanus), and two daughters; by Elizabeth Lee he had the same number of children, again divided equally between sons and daughters; his two younger sons were Samuel and Andrew. His daughter Elizabeth, by the first marriage, married John Raymond of Montville, Conn., and became the ancestress of Theodore Raymond, Esq., now of Norwich, Conn. This John Raymond's father had married, for his second wife, Sarah Lynde, a sister of the first wife of the Rev. George Griswold.

The male line of descent from him branched out widely, constituting what has been called the Giant's Neck branch of Griswolds, from the place of his residence. From his son George were descended, in the third generation, the princely brother-merchants of New York, Nathaniel Lynde and George Griswold (b. 1773 and 1777); also, Thomas Griswold, the father of Mrs. Elizabeth Griswold, now of Lyme, widow of Charles Chandler Griswold, who was descended from the first Matthew by another line which I shall presently take up—the Blackhall branch, as it may be properly called, that property of the first Matthew Griswold having been mostly held by them ever since his day.

John Lynde Griswold, who passed a serene and beneficent old age at Peoria, Ill. (dying January 15, 1883), was a son of the elder of the two eminent merchants of New York. A sister of his, Catharine Ann (d. 1857), was the wife of Peter Lorillard of New York; a half-sister, Mary, is the widow of Alfred Pierpont Edwards of New York, a son of the late Henry W. Edwards, Governor of Connecticut. One of the sons of George Griswold, the younger of the two New York merchants, was Richard Sill (d. 1847), whose second wife and widow, Frances Augusta (Mather), now lives in Lyme. He left three children: 1. Louisa Mather, now the wife of General Joseph Griswold Perkins of Lyme, whose mother was a Gris-

wold of the Blackhall branch; 2. Richard Sill, now of Lyme; and 3. Fanny Augusta, now the wife of Professor Nathaniel Matson Terry, of the United States Naval School at Annapolis, Md. A daughter of the New York merchant George Griswold, Matilda (half-sister of Richard Sill, Senr), is the wife of the present Secretary of State, Frederick Frelinghuysen; and a sister of hers by the whole blood is the widow of John C. Green of New York, the great patron, of late years, of the College of New Jersey.

Mrs. Elizabeth Griswold, the widow of Charles Chandler Griswold, has two children: 1. Elizabeth Diodate, now the widow of Judge William Griswold Lane, her second cousin, a descendant of the first Matthew by the Blackhall branch, of Sandusky, Ohio; and 2. Sarah Johnson, now the wife of Lorillard Spencer, and mother of four children, of whom one is Eleonora the wife of Virginio Cenci, Prince of Vicovaro, Italy, Chamberlain of the present King of Italy, and a Lady of Honor to her Majesty the Italian Queen.

A Griswold by descent has favored me with the following note on some of the prominent physical traits of the family: "The original Griswolds seem to have been blue-eyed, very tall, large-boned, muscular, athletic and powerful. By the marriage of the Rev. George Griswold to Hannah Lynde, some of the beauty of the soft and regular features, and fine complexions, hereditary with the Digby-Lyndes, came into that branch of the family. The Wolcotts were also a tall race, but with fuller forms, black eyes, rich brunette complexions, and much beauty of the type which is still marked in the Wolcott family of to-day. This Wolcott beauty has characterized many of the Blackhall branch of Griswolds, who are twice Wolcotts by descent, as we shall see, through the marriage of Governor Matthew Griswold, added to that of his great-grandfather, the first Matthew."

The ancestral property of Giant's Neck fell, in the course of time, into the hands of those great merchants of New York who have been named, grandsons of the Rev. George Griswold; and a stone church still stands—though no longer used—which they built on a spot consecrated by the pious labors of their grandfather. But, ceasing to care for the old property, they sold it, and that beautiful site is now given up to a large factory of fish-fertilizers. Yet, on all the varied and beautiful shore between the mouth of the Connecticut and New London there is no spot so picturesque and beautiful as Giant's Neck. The end of the Neck, stretching out into the Sound, is a flat formation of rock, making a natural wharf surrounded by deep water. As one looks out upon the pretty islands that cluster about the rock-bound shore, and into the wide ocean beyond, sum-

mer-villas rise to the imagination, with grounds of varied beauty for which nature has well prepared the way, and a group of pleasure-boats and yachts, some riding at anchor in the offing, others moored at the natural wharf; while the rails, a short distance away, connect this charming retreat of one's fancy with the great city. What might not have been made of the site, had it been improved by the wealth of its inheritors!

Having now completed what I propose to say of the Giant's Neck branch of Griswolds—referring only to Chancellor Walworth's Hyde Genealogy for further particulars—I return to enumerate other children of Matthew and Phæbe (Hyde) Griswold, younger than their son the Rev. George Griswold:

7. *Mary*; born Apr. 22, 1694; who married, Sept. 4, 1719, Edmund Dorr; and died Feb. 21, 1776. One of their sons was the Rev. Edward Dorr (b. 1722, graduated at Yale College in 1742), a pastor of the First Church of Hartford, Conn., from 1748. Their daughter Eve (b. 1733) married, in 1762, George Griffin of East Haddam, Conn., and was the mother of the distinguished clergyman Rev. Dr. Edward Dorr Griffin, and of the great lawyer George Griffin of New York; also of Phæbe Griffin, who married Joseph Lord of Lyme, the mother of Mrs. Phæbe (Lord) Noyes, wife of the late Deacon Daniel R. Noyes of Lyme, of the late Miss Harriet Lord of Lyme, of Miss Frances Jane Lord now of Lyme, and other children. Messrs. Daniel R. and Charles P. Noyes of St. Paul, Minn., Mrs. E. B. Kirby of St. Louis, Mo., Mrs. George Loveland of Wilkesbarre, Pa., and Mrs. Charles H. Ludington of New York City—all children of Daniel R. and Phæbe (Lord) Noyes—are great-great-grandchildren of Mary Griswold.

8. *Deborah*; born in 1696; who married, Oct. 19, 1721, Major Robert Denison of New London, Conn. (his second wife); and died between 1730 and 1733, leaving several children. Her husband "was a captain in General Roger Wolcott's brigade at the taking of Louisburgh, and was afterwards promoted to the rank of Major and of Colonel. He removed to Nova Scotia,"* and was known as "Col. Robert Denison of Horton, N. S.," as early as 1761. Family-papers of the Denisons show that they were royalists. Col. Robert Denison, in his will, proved at Horton in 1765, bequeathed his "Cape Breton gun and silver-hilted sword," and "the gun brought from Lake George."

9. *Samuel*; born in December, 1697; who "died June 10, 1727, aged 29 years 6 months," unm.

* Hyde Genealogy, ut supra, i. 55.

10. *Patience*; born in 1698; who married, between Nov. 2, 1724 and Mar. 28, 1728, * John Denison, brother of her sister Deborah's husband; and died Nov. 8, 1776, having had sons and daughters.

11. *Thomas*; born in February, 1700; who "died July 27, 1716, aged 16 years and 5 months." †

JOHN, fifth child and second son of Matthew and Phœbe (Hyde) Griswold, through whom descends the Blackhall branch of the Griswold family, was born December 22, 1690; married, June 23, 1713, Hannah Lee, his step-sister (by his father's second marriage, to Mrs. Mary Lee—see above), who died May 11, 1773; and died September, 22, 1764. His gravestone in the Duck River Burying-Ground at Lyme reads as follows:

"Sacred to the Memory of John Griswold, who, after having sustained the Public offices of Justice of the peace and of the quorum for many years, departed this life Sept. 22nd 1764, in the 74th year of his age;"

and in a note to a funeral sermon preached on his daughter Phœbe's death, it is said that he "was not only a Gentleman of great wealth; but also was much beloved and esteemed by his townsmen and acquaintance for his superior wisdom and integrity." As the eldest surviving son of his father, he had, by the law as it then stood, a double portion of the paternal estate; to which he added by repeated purchases. A few illustrations of the state of New England society in his time, taken from family-papers, will not be out of place here.

Two deeds of negro men, "sold and delivered" to him during his life, have been preserved; and his inventory includes a negro girl Phillis. In all probability these are only a representation of his household-slaves. As Justice of the Peace, presentments were made to him, at different times, for profanation of the Sabbath, "in y^e Time of Divine worship . . . in y^e meeting-House . . . by unbecoming Carriage (viz.), by continuing to Laugh and provoke others y^t sat with him to do so also, by whispering, and by speaking out so Loud as to be heard by several persons, and by pricking y^e boys with pins y^t sat with him in y^e seat"; by "going, between meetings, into y^e orchard . . . near y^e Meeting-House and beating Down y^e apples off y^e Trees"; and that ". . . Did unnecessarily on Said Day Travil from Said house to one Certain Called Mason's Pond in Colchester, . . . and then and there unnecessarily, In a Canoe, proceed upon said pond,

* Proved by two signatures of hers, as maid and wife respectively, of these two dates.

† The birth-months of Thomas and Samuel are determined by inscriptions on their gravestones in the Duck River Burying-Ground at Lyme. A draft of a will of Thomas, made when he was "very sick & weak in body," is dated 1716.

and did and exercised Labour by fishing in said Pond"; that "... Did play Cards in a private house, Contrary to y^e Laws of this Government"; and "a couple of young fellows" were accused before him "with Lying." What singular manifestations are these, in a land of dearly bought freedom, of an over-weening zeal to enforce religious formalities, to restrain personal liberty arbitrarily, and to treat immoralities themselves, irrespective of the injuries to society which they occasion, as punishable by human law! We find, also, among the family-papers, a memorandum, dated Aug. 12, 1746, of payment being due from the Colony of Connecticut to John Griswold "for boarding four souldiers that were Inlisted in y^e Expedition to Canada"—a memorial of the Cape Breton Expedition in the Old French War; in which his brother-in-law Denison was an officer of distinction, as we have seen, and Roger Wolcott held an important command, whose daughter had been for nearly three years the wife of his son Matthew.

The home of John Griswold was a house which he built where now stands the house of Judge Matthew Griswold (his grandson, 1760-1842) in the Blackhall Avenue. Judge Matthew is said to have made his house exactly like that of his grandfather, to please his own father the Governor.

The children of John and Hannah (Lee) Griswold were:

1. MATTHEW (see below).

2. *Phæbe*; * born Apr. 22, 1716; who married, Dec. 14, 1731, the Rev. Jonathan Parsons of Lyme; and died Dec. 26, 1770. Her husband was graduated at Yale College in 1729, and settled as Pastor of the First Church of Lyme in 1731, after having studied for the ministry with the Rev. Elisha Williams, Rector of Yale College, and with the Rev. Jonathan Edwards of Northampton, Mass. In the days of "New Light" theology, and of the ministerial methods growing out of it, he being warmly in favor of them, and of Whitefield, the eloquent preacher of the new views (who twice visited him, and "preached from a rock on his grounds near the present meeting-house, since known as the 'Whitefield Rock')," he encountered opposition, and finally took a dismission, and removed to Newburyport, Mass., where he died; and where, in his house, as is well known, Whitefield had previously died. Of Mrs. Parsons it is said, in a funeral sermon preached on her death:

"The God of Nature was pleased to furnish her with mental endowments to an uncommon degree. In the solidity of her judgment and penetration of mind she shone superior

* Reference is to be had to the Hyde Genealogy for further particulars respecting the younger children of John Griswold, which I here omit—my object being, chiefly, to follow the line of descent through his eldest child Matthew.

to most of her sex ; in canvassing many difficult points she could distinguish with surprising clearness.

"For readiness, liveliness and keenness of wit she appeared to me unrivall'd. The agreeable sallies of that social endowment have often excited my esteem and admiration. Such a degree of penetration and agreeable sprightliness seldom meet in the same person. Her ingenious friends, whom she favored with her letters, can testify with what correctness and spirit, with what instructive solidity and elegant vivacity, she could write.

"Such was her courage and firmness of resolution as you can seldom find in the delicate sex . . .

"Her indefatigable industry in the affairs of her family was truly remarkable . . .

"Her knowledge of Geography and History, especially her critical acquaintance with Church History, was truly rare.

"Knowledge in Divinity enters deep into her character. Comparatively but few of her sex, I believe, have had their minds more enriched with that treasure. . . .

"She was a person of much christian simplicity and integrity ; of an upright, sincere and conscientious turn of mind ; a bitter enemy to all unchristian craftiness and sly deceit . . .

"Though she was honorably descended, and lived in an honorable station, yet she could, without the least self-denial, condescend to the meanest of the human race. . . .

"She was possest of great sensibility of heart, was much acquainted with the tender and delicate emotions of humanity and sympathy"*

A son of the Rev. Jonathan and Phœbe (Griswold) Parsons was Colonel, afterwards General, Samuel Holden Parsons (b. 1737); who studied law with his uncle Gov. Matthew Griswold, was made King's Attorney in 1774, and removed to New London ; but at the commencement of the Revolution entered actively into military service, was at the battle of Bunker Hill, was made a Brigadier General in 1776, distinguished himself in the battle of Long Island, and was appointed Major General; after the war removed to Middletown, Conn., resumed the practice of his profession, and was an active member of the Convention which ratified the Constitution of the United States in Connecticut, of which his uncle Gov. Griswold was the President. Under an appointment as Commissioner of Connecticut, he obtained from the Indians a cession of their title to the "Western Reserve" of Ohio, and was afterwards made the first Judge of the Northwestern Territory by Washington, his confidential friend.†

A sister of General Parsons, Lydia (b. 1755), married Capt. Moses Greenleaf of Newburyport, Mass., and was the mother of the late eminent law-professor; and author of the "Treatise on the Law of Evidence," Simon Greenleaf of Harvard College.

3. *Thomas* ; born Feb. 15, 1719; who married, Dec. 17, 1741, Susan-

* A Funeral Sermon . . . occasioned by the death of Mrs. Phebe Parsons . . . By John Searl . . . Boston, 1771, pp. 37-40.

† From an article by the Hon. C. J. McCurdy, in the New Haven Register for Dec. 20, 1831.

nah, daughter of Nathaniel Lynde, Jr. of Saybrook, Conn.; and died July 16, 1770. He is known as Ensign Thomas Griswold. His wife died Sep. 25, 1768. They both lie buried in the Duck River Burying-Ground at Lyme. One of their daughters, Lois (b. 1747), married Samuel Mather, and was the paternal grandmother of Mrs. Richard Sill Griswold now of Lyme.

4. *Hannah*; born Jan. 10, 1724; who married, Nov. 5, 1740, Benaja Bushnell (Y. C. 1735) of Norwich, Conn.; and died Aug. 16, 1772, having had fourteen children, sons and daughters.

5. *Lucia*; born July 6, 1726; who married, Jan. 9, 1753, Elijah Backus, Esq., of Norwich, Conn.; and died Dec. 16, 1795, having had nine children.

6. *Sarah*; born Dec. 2, 1728; who married, Nov. 1, 1750, Judge William Hillhouse of New London, North Parish (Montville), Conn.; and died Mar. 10, 1777. She was the mother of the late Hon. James Hillhouse of New Haven, Conn., so long Senator in Congress from Connecticut, and grandmother of the late James Abraham Hillhouse, author of *Hadad*, *Percy's Masque* and other poems, by which he will be always remembered as one of the most accomplished of the second generation of American men of letters, subsequent to the Revolution.

7. *Clarissa*; born May 30, 1731; who died in infancy.

8. *Clarissa*; born Feb. 9, 1733; who married, Oct. 22, 1754, Nathan Elliot of Killingworth, afterwards of Kent, Conn.; and died Feb. 11, 1811, having had thirteen children, sons and daughters.

9. *Deborah*; born Mar. 1, 1735; who married, Dec. 9, 1756, Capt. Nathan Jewett of East Haddam, Conn.; and died May 16, 1811, having had nine children.

10. *John*; born May 15, 1739; who died in infancy.

11. *Lydia*; born in June (bapt. June 13) 1742; who married, before 1768, Samuel Loudon, a bookseller, of New York; and died after 1770. Two letters from her husband to her brother Gov. Griswold give us these two approximate dates; and from one of them, dated Apr. 12, 1768, I quote the following: "Last week I sent you three Newspapers. I now send you two more. The first of the five begins the American Whig, a Paper which I hope will be useful to the Publick. . . . You'll see the Design of the Whig is to raise a universal stir in N^o. America against the importation of a Bishop."

Edward Elbridge Salisbury

ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS

SIR HENRY CLINTON'S ORIGINAL SECRET RECORD OF PRIVATE DAILY INTELLIGENCE

Contributed by Dr. Thomas Addis Emmett

WITH AN INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY EDWARD F. DELANCEY

(Continued from page 70, Vol. XI.)

The "one Isaacs of East Hampton," mentioned in the preceding entry of "28 April, 1781," and note thereto (January magazine, p. 66), was a Christianized foreign Jew, who came to East Hampton before the Revolution, and subsequently died there, at the age of 75 years. *Thompson's Hist. Long Island*, I. 323). His daughter, Sarah Isaacs, married William Payne, the first teacher of the Clinton Academy, at East Hampton, founded in 1784. He was a Boston medical student, and pupil of Dr. Joseph Warren, who was killed at Bunker Hill. Their son—the grandson of Aaron Isaacs—was *John Howard Payne*, the immortal author of "Home, Sweet Home," whose remains, only a few months ago, were brought back to his native land from their far African grave near the ruins of Carthage, and interred at Washington, through the thoughtful care of the venerable William W. Corcoran.

"Mr. Rivington," the writer of the entry of "16th May, 1781" (the last in the January magazine), was the well-known Printer of the *Royal Gazetteer*. His information was incorrect. The "Mr. Stedman" was either Charles, or Alexander, Steadman of Philadelphia, the former many years a Councilman of that city. Both brothers were men of character, and before the war, with Baron Stiegel owned and operated the Elizabeth Furnace in Lancaster county, Pa. (*Keith's Provincial Councillors*, 162.) Town gossip probably originated this report, though there were many then in Philadelphia who would have liked to have driven out Reed.

Transaction between Capt^a Sullivan, Capt Holland† & Major Dr Lancey.*

17th May. 1781.

Captain Sullivan left Philadelphia on the 7th Inst and says the evening he arrived there there were very great riots on account of the depreciation of the paper

* Daniel Sullivan, an elder brother of Major-General John Sullivan, the Continental general, but at this time a member of the Continental Congress from New Hampshire.

† Stephen Holland, of Londonderry, New Hampshire. He was a colonel of militia, a member of the House of Assembly, and a man of note. In 1775, before the Declaration of Independence, he denied at a town meeting that he "was an enemy to his country" in writing; and the statement ended by saying that "he was ready to assist his countrymen in the glorious cause of liberty at the risk of his life and fortune." In 1778 he was proscribed, banished, and his estate confiscated. He was a gentleman of culture, easy address and influence. He was a magistrate, a representative of the town in the Legislature, clerk of the county of Hillsborough, and Lieut.-Col. of the militia of Rockingham County. In 1777 he was imprisoned as a loyalist by the committee of safety of Londonderry, but escaped from the jail, and went to Boston, and thence to Newport, where his wife was permitted by the committee to join him, and from there he came to New York. At the close of the war he went to England, and thence to Ireland, where he died shortly after the peace of 1783. —*Parker's Hist. Londonderry*; *Farmer and Moore N. H. Hist. coll.*; vol. 1, *Subine's Loyalists*; *Wells and Hicks' British and Am. Register*, 1774, 1775.

justified by any observation that you ever made to me, or that I ever made to another, in reporting that you had given an opinion that a duel between our lamented friend & Col. Burr was unavoidable.

It was not until the challenge had been given and accepted, that I mentioned the affair to you, and that under injunction of secrecy, knowing our friend's determination to be passive. My mind was agitated with strong forebodings of wh. has happened, and tho' the correspondence was closed by an agreement of the parties to meet each other, I nevertheless mentioned the subject to you and asked if you could perceive any mode of interference. Yr. answer, expressive of much sorrow, was in the negative. I did, however, not infer from this answer that in yr. opinion our friend might not have declined a meeting with Col. Burr, but merely by the acceptance of his adversary's challenge, that the interference of third persons was precluded.

With Sentiments of Respect & Esteem

Gen. Clarkson.

Signed

R. King."

On the back of this copy of a letter is part of another, which was either sent or proposed to be sent to some intimate correspondent. It is in these words:

"You cannot, my dear Sir, hold in greater abhorrence than I do the Practice of Duelling. Our lamented friend was not unacquainted with my opinions on this subject, but with the most sagacious and discriminating mind that I ever knew, he had laid certain rules for the government of himself upon the subj. of duels, the fallacy of wh. w^d not fail to be seen by any man of ordinary understanding, and with these guides, it is my deliberate opinion, that he could not have avoided a meeting with Col. Burr, had he even declined the first challenge."

On the same page is one other remark in the hand writing of R. K., as follows:

"I regard it as a violation of our civil, our moral, and our religious duty: I go farther, and do not consider it as even 'proof of courage.'"

With these corroborative evidences of the views and feelings of Rufus King on the subject of dueling, and especially of his agency in this particular case, there can be no doubt that he has been unjustly charged with withholding his influence to prevent the occurrence of the duel.

ANDALUSIA. PENN., Feb'y 11, 1884.

Charles R. King,

THE GRISWOLD FAMILY OF CONNECTICUT *

WITH PEDIGREE

II

MATTHEW, the eldest child of John and Hannah (Lee) Griswold, was born Mar. 25, 1714; married, Nov. 10, 1743, Ursula, daughter of Gov. Roger Wolcott,† of Windsor, Conn.; and died April 28, 1799. She died Apr. 5, 1788. He is usually distinguished as Governor Matthew Griswold, from the last public office which he held. What preparation he had for public life other than his own native ability, and the prestige of family, we are not told. So early as 1739 his "loyalty, courage, and good conduct" were rewarded by Governor Talcott with the appointment of Captain to the South Train Band of Lyme; and in 1766 Governor Pitkin made him Major of the Third Regiment of Horse and Foot in the service of the Colony. But long before this latter date he had become devoted to civil affairs, more especially to such as involved applications of law to private interests; in respect to which he acquired an extensive reputation, and was consulted from distant places. He appears to have been counsel for John Winthrop of New London, son of the last Governor Winthrop, in a suit brought by him against the Colony for services of his ancestors and moneys due to them.‡ In 1751 he was chosen a Representative to the General Assembly; § in 1757, as "Matthew Griswold, Esq., of Lyme," he was appointed by the Colonial Government to "sue for, levy and recover" debts, "in the name, behalf and for the use of the Governor and Company;" in 1759 he was elected to the Council of the Governor.¶ He was again a member of the Council in 1765, when Fitch was Governor, whose councillors were summoned to administer to him an oath to support the requirements of the Stamp Act. An historian has described the scene in glowing words, and tells us that Matthew Griswold was one of those who followed the lead of Trumbull in refusing to "witness a ceremony which so degraded liberty, and degraded the Colony," and retired from the council-chamber.¶¶ To February 11 of this year belongs a letter from Jared

† Memorial of Henry Wolcott . . . ut supra, p. 77.

‡ I derive this fact from a manuscript letter of Dr. Benjamin Trumbull of North Haven to the Governor, dated Oct. 28, 1793. Comp. Trumbull's Hist. of Connecticut . . . New Haven, 1818, ii. 54-55.

§ Hollister's Hist. of Conn., ut supra, ii. 640. ¶ Id., ibid.

¶¶ Life of Jonathan Trumbull, Senr. . . . By I. M. Stuart. Boston, 1850, pp. 85-92.

* Copyright, 1881, by Edward Elbridge Salisbury.

Ingersoll, then in London, preserved among the family-papers, in which, after reporting the purchase of some law-books, he says:

"The very interesting Stamp Bill *for taming Americans* passed the House of Commons last Wednesday. I was present and heard all the Debate, Some of which was truly Noble, and *the whole very Entertaining*, at the same time Very Affecting, Especially to an American."

In 1766, Jonathan Trumbull being Chief Justice, he was made a Judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut. On the death of Governor Pitkin, in 1769, when Trumbull became Governor, he took the highest seat on the bench as Chief Justice, which office he held during fifteen years. Meanwhile for thirteen of those years—from 1771 till 1784—he was Deputy-Governor, or Lieutenant-Governor, of the Colony and newly formed State. In 1770 he was chosen one of the Commissioners for Propagating the Gospel in New England and parts adjacent in America, Andrew Oliver, of Boston, being the Secretary. The very efficient Council of Safety, formed in 1775 to aid the Governor through the struggles of the Revolution, whenever the Legislature should not be sitting, was headed by him from the first. The list of original members is given thus: "Matthew Griswold, William Pitkin, Roger Sherman, Abraham Davenport, William Williams, Titus Hosmer, Benjamin Payne, Gen. James Wadsworth, Benjamin Huntington, William Hillhouse, Thaddeus Burr, Nathaniel Wales, Jr., Daniel Sherman and Andrew Adams." * From 1784 to 1786 he was the Chief Magistrate of Connecticut, taking part, as such, in establishing the so-called continental policy in the State, by conceding to Congress the power of impost—an all-important first step in the formation of a National Government. His elevation to the chief magistracy is thus spoken of by the author of the Life of Jonathan Trumbull:

"But he [Trumbull] persisted in declining the proposed office, and the people therefore found another candidate for the gubernatorial chair in Honorable Matthew Griswold, a gentleman who now, for thirteen consecutive years, side by side with the veteran Trumbull, of his political faith, like him of tried conduct, high-minded and patriotic, had occupied the post of Lieutenant Governor of the State." †

In 1788 he presided over the Convention for the Ratification of the Constitution of the United States, to which, as Bancroft says in his latest historical work, "were chosen the retired and the present highest officers of its [the State's] Government, the judges of its courts, 'ministers of the Gospel,' and nearly sixty who had fought for independence." ‡

* Life of Jonathan Trumbull, Senr. . . . By I. M. Stuart. Boston, 1850, p. 203, note.

† *Ibid.*, p. 641.

‡ History of the Formation of the Constitution of the United States of America. By George Bancroft. New York, 1882, ii. 256; and comp. Hollister's Hist. of Conn., *ut supra*, ii. 456-62.

The foregoing sketch may be properly supplemented by extracts from Governor Griswold's correspondence—letters both to him and from him—which will serve to set him in fuller light, while at the same time they bring some of the great public events of his time more vividly before us, thus grouped, as it were, around an individual life. I first give, nearly entire, so far as its tattered condition allows, a significant letter from Roger Sherman, dated January 11, 1766:

"Sir,

"I hope you will excuse the freedom which I take of mentioning, for your consideration, some things which appear to me a little extraordinary, and which I fear (if persisted in) may be prejudicial to the Interests of the Colony—more especially the late practice of great numbers of people Assembling and Assuming a kind of Legislative Authority, passing & publishing resolves &c.—will not the frequent Assembling such large Bodies of people, without any Laws to regulate or Govern their proceedings, tend to weaken the Authority of the Government, and naturally possess the minds of the people with such lax notions of Civil Authority as may lead to such disorders & confusions as will not be easily suppress'd or reformed? especially in such a popular Government as ours, for the well ordering of which good rules, and a wise, Steady Administration are necessary.—I esteem our present form of Government to be one of the happiest & best in the world: it secures the civil & religious rights and privileges of the people, and by a due administration has the best tendency to preserve and promote publick virtue, which is absolutely necessary to publick happiness. . . . There are doubtless some who envy us the enjoyment of these . . . privileges, and would be glad of any plausible excuse to deprive . . . therefore behove . . . to conduct with prudence and caution at this critical juncture, when Arbitrary principles & measures, with regard to the colonies, are so much in vogue; and is it not of great importance that peace & harmony be preserved & promoted among ourselves; and that everything which may tend to weaken publick Government, or give the enemies of our happy constitution any advantage against us, be carefully avoided? I have no doubt of the upright intentions of those gentlemen who have promoted the late meetings in several parts of Colony, which I suppose were principally Intended to concert measures to prevent the Introduction of the Stamp papers, and not in the least to oppose the Laws or authority of the Government; but is there not danger of proceeding too far, in such measures, so as to involve the people in divisions and animosities among themselves, and . . . endanger our Charter-privileges? May not . . . being informed of these things view them in such a light . . . our present Democratical State of Government will not be Sufficient to Secure the people from falling into a State of Anarchy, and therefore determine a change to be necessary for that end, especially if they should have a previous Disposition for such a change?—Perhaps the continuing Such Assemblies will now be thought needless, as Mr Ingersoll has this week declared under Oath that he will not execute the office of Distributor of Stamps in this Colony, which declaration is published in the New Haven Gazette. I hope we shall now have his influence & Assistance in endeavoring to get rid of the Stamp Duties. . . .

"I hear one piece of News from the East which a little Surprizes me, that is, the publication of some exceptionable passages extracted from Mr Ingersoll's letters, after all the pains taken by the Sons of Liberty to prevent their being sent home to England. I was

glad when those letters were recalled, and that Mr. Ingersoll was free to retrench all those passages which were thought likely to be of disservice to the Government, and to agree for the future, during the present critical situation of affairs, not to write home anything but what should be inspected & approved by persons that the people of the Government would confide in ; but by means of the publication of those passages in the Newspapers they will likely arrive in England near as soon as if the original Letters had been sent, and perhaps will not appear in a more favourable point of light.—

"Sir, I hint these things for your consideration, being sensible that, from your situation, known abilities and interest in the Affections and esteem of the people, you will be under the best advantage to advise & influence them to such a conduct as shall be most likely to conduce to the publick Good of the Colony. I am, Sir, with great esteem, your Obedient, Humble Serv^t

Roger Sherman."

"New Haven, Jan. 11, 1766."

The following letter is from the Rev. Stephen Johnson, "the sincere and fervid pastor of the First Church of Lyme," who had left his parish in May 1775, to serve as Chaplain to the Regiment of Col. Parsons, afterwards present at the battle of Bunker Hill :

"Camp at Roxbury, 5th Oct^r. 1775.

"Hon^l Sir,

"Have not forgot our parting Conversation respecting writing to you—defer'd it a while, waiting for something important—the time of the Circuit drew on, in which I suppos'd the Conveyance would be lengthy & uncertain—but will defer no longer—Several vessels bound to Boston with Valuable Cargoes have fallen into our hands—one from New Providence, with Tortoise & fruit—one from Canada with Cattle, hogs, sheep & Poultry—one from Europe of 300 Tuns in Portsmouth, with 2200 Barrels of flour &c.—one that went out of Boston the Beginning of this week for wood &c : the Majority of the hands, being in our Favor, Brought her into our Port—a Captⁿ in her, who had been taken & carried into Boston about ten weeks ago, informs : Gen^l Gage Recalled, & this day to sail for Britain—Gen^l Howe succeeds, & was proclaimed Gov^r Last Tuesday—Commands & Resides in Boston—Clinton on Bunker's Hill : a Dissenter had informed that Gen^l Burgoin was gone to Congress in Philadelphia—this Captⁿ was inquired of about it, who says some in Boston affirmed it, others denyed it—all he Could say was that he used to see him often, but had not seen him for three days, &c.—he further says, 3 men of war, one of 64 guns, were going out, 2 or 3 mortars were put on board, and that it was said 2 Regiments were to go on board them, of which 49th Reg^t was one—their destination a secret. Some suppose they are to make attacks on Seaports nigh us—some that they are going to Philadelphia—others to Charlestown, South Carolina—others to Quebeck, &c ; if Burgoin is gone to Philadelphia, I fear an insidious purpose, am more afraid of their gaining some important advantage against us by art & Corruption than by their arms ; perhaps the Colonies will find it expedient to Change their Delegates often to Congress—this I believe sooner or later will be found a Measure highly important to the General Safety and welfare—and that Strict probity & incorruptability, Joyn'd with some prudence and Judgement, will be safer to trust to than more shining abilities, Joyn'd with an ambitious, avaritious & designing turn of mind : the Camp more healthy—have lost by Sickness

but 6 men out of our Regiment. My Best Regards to your Hon^r & Mrs Griswold. Dear Love to my Children—affectionate Regards to Friends and Parishoners. I am in haste
Affectionately Yours &c.

Stephen Johnson."

A few days later, in the same month, Deputy Gov. Griswold himself wrote from Cambridge to Gov. Trumbull, as follows :

"Cambridge, 20th Oct. 1775.

"Sir,

"I have to acquaint your Hon^r that an Express is arriv'd at Head Quarters from Portsmouth, Informing that on Monday last two or three Arm'd Vessels arriv'd at Falmouth in Casco Bay from Boston (being part of the Ministerial Force—They were attended with Sundry Transports all full of men), with orders to Destroy that and the Town of Portsmouth, in Case the Inhabitants Refus'd to Deliver up their Arms, give Hostages &c.—That on a Truce the People gave up Eight Musquets, and had time till nine of the Clock next Morning to Consider—That y^e Post came away about half after Eight—Just about nine he heard a heavy firing towards that place, Suppos'd the Terms were Rejected, & that the Cruel orders were Carrying into Execution. Gov^t Cook also has advice from Mr. Malebone, who was an Eye & Ear Witness (and is now here Present), that Captⁿ Wallace has orders to do the same to the Towns in Rhode Island & Connec^t, where any arm'd Force appears to oppose the Ministerial Troops : what Precaution is Necessary to be taken for the Protection of our Colony your Hon^r & the Hon^{ble} Gen^l Assembly will Consider. Some of our Connecticut officers are very Desirous some further Provision might be made for Those of the People in the army belonging to our Colony that are or may be Sick.—

"It's Suppos'd not Expedient at present to Communicate any of the Matters Transacted by the Com^{tee} &c. Conven'd here, without Special Leave.

"I am with great Respect

Your Hon^{rs} most obedient humble Serv^t

Matth^w Griswold."

On the 27th of June, 1778, Gov. Griswold wrote a letter to Roger Sherman of which the following is an incomplete draft :

"Woodstock, June 27th, 1778.

"Sir,

"You have undoubtedly been advis'd of the Measures taken by the General Assembly of this State Relative to the Paper Currency : That upon a Motion made in our lower House of Assembly it was Resolv'd not to Suspend or Repeal the Act Regulating prices, that a letter [be] sent by our Assembly to the other New England States, Remonstrating against their Delaying to make provision for Regulating prices, accompanied by two Gen^{ls}, sent from our Assembly to Providence & Boston, to Enforce the Matter Contain'd in the Letter : who Returning without Success, our Gen^l Assembly Directed an Address to Congress, Requesting them to take up the Matter, and advise to Some Salutary Measures to prevent the Threatening Mischief of Sinking the Credit of the paper Currency ; pointing out in Some Measure the Dangerous Consequences to the army, and great advantage Sharpers and Disaffected Persons might take to oppress the People and Embarrass the Common Cause : That, while the Copies were preparing, the Resolve of Congress came

to hand Advising a Repeal or Suspension of the Act ; which Induced the Assembly to suspend it till the Rising of the Gen^l Assembly in Oct^r next, apprehending it wou^d not be in the power of this State alone to Effect a Matter of that kind : That in Consequence of Such Suspension the price of Indian Corn Started to about 10/ and 12/ pr bushell, and Wheat is 18/ and 20/ pr bushell, and Some Demand more : Cattle and Sheep are sold, I believe between £20. and £30. pr cent. higher than Ever : Sharpers Siez^d the opportunity before the People were advis^d of the Suspension, & bought Cattle and Sheep for near £30. pr cent. Cheaper than y^e same might have been sold for 3 or 4 Days afterwards—I apprehend the Body of our People are much in fav^r of a Regulating act to Restraine the Licentiousness of the People, but Despair of being able, alone, to carry such a Measure into Execution ; That they wou^d have been greatly Dissatisfied with the Conduct of our Assembly in the Suspension, had it not been for the Resolve of Congress Relative thereto, but now acquiesce in what the Assembly did :—The Aversion many of our People have to Receive the Bills for outstanding Debts, or Indeed to have any Concern with them, has, I apprehend, Reduc^d their Credit to a lower State here than it was ever before, Tho^o it seems the Demand for the Bills to pay Taxes, & the prospect of their final Redemption with Silver and Gold, may prevent their sinking much lower.—I Imagine our People will very much go into a Gen^l Barter to carry on their private affairs—what the Consequence will be I know not,—hope the Congress will Devise some proper Measures to Support the Army.—Our Gen^l Assembly have laid 1/ Tax on the List of 1777, to be paid y^e 1st Sep^r next, and also Directed the Treasurer to borrow one hundred Thousand pounds on Loan ; but that will not be an adequate Supply of the Treasury.

“Our People are pursuing their Husbandry with great Zeal and vigour. The Fruits of the Earth at present appear in a flourishing State, afford a hopeful prospect of Supplies for the Current year.—The Military preparations go on Slow. The Six Battallions order^d to be Rais^d for Defence are Reduced to two, Tho^o I believe, if the State Sho^ud be Immediately Invaded, the People would Run to arms with Spirit and vigour.

“These Threatening overtures call aloud for Reformation—the Event is known to him alone who Sitts at the helm, and Controuls all Events with Infinite Power & Unerring Wisdom.”

The following letter was written by Deputy Gov. Griswold to Gov. Trumbull :

“Lyme, August 3rd, 1779.

“Sir,

“Intelligence is Just Rec^d that I apprehend may be Relied on, that the Enemy are preparing a large Fleet at New York, said to be Design^d on an Expedition Eastward : That another lesser Fleet are now fitting out at Huntington : That a great Premium & Wages are offered to such as will Inlist, with the whole of the Plunder they may take—as this latter Fleet is principally mann^d with Tories, whose Rage and Malice seems to have no bounds, it is Suppos^d their Design is to Ravage the Coast of this State ; it's Conjectured that the large Fleet have New London for their object, while that in the Sound plunder & burn the Towns lying on the Seashore. Such an Armament must presume the Enemy have some very Important object in view : what More Probable than to pursue the above Plan, I submit. Upon the Present appearances, your Exilency and other Gen^{ls} of the Council will undoubtedly be of opinion that nessasary precaution ought to be taken to

prevent the bad Consequence of such an operation of the Enemy—would Recommend to Consideration whether it wou'd not be adviseable Rather to Increase the Guards on the Sea Coast, and that the Militia on the Sea Shore sho'd not be drawn off to Distant places in Case of Alarm : Perhaps the State are in great Danger from a Tory Fleet in the Sound : Tho' their force is not sufficient to Conquer the State, yet, if the men were call'd off, the Families & Property wou'd be Expos'd to be Ravag'd by a Number of Savage Mortals, whose Tender Mercies are Cruelty : whether it wou'd not bee Expedient that Beacons be provided to give Notice, and that the Militia be arrang'd under their proper officers, with Signals to Direct them where to Repair, and to Run to the Relief of the place attack'd : That Immediate care be taken to provide a Competent Number of Cartridges, and Deposited in the Most Convenient places : and that orders be Issu'd for a view of Arms once in a few Days, that So they be Kept in Constant Repair.—I take the Freedom to mention these Matters as Worthy of the greatest attention in this alarming Situation of affairs.—Sho'd wait on your Excellency were it not for attending the Circuit.

"I am with great Respect & Esteem Your Excellencies Most obed^t Humble Serv^t

Matth^w Griswold"

"His Exc^y Gov. Trumbull."

The next letter in the series selected for this paper is from Gov. Trumbull:

"Lebanon, Aug. 17, 1780.

"Gent.

"I inclose a Copy of the Doings of a Convention lately held in Boston, for your perusal, Consideration & opinion, and very especially with respect to the Embargo.^{*} I have sent out for the attendance of all the Council of Safety on Wednesday the 23^d of August inst, with a particular view to take up & conclude upon that matter, and, as I presume your Engagem^{ts} will not permit your attendance, wish your attention & opinion on that Subject before the meeting : in an affair of so much Consequence I choose to act with all the advise & assistance which can be obtained.

"I am with Esteem & Consideration,
Gentlemen, your most Obed^t
and very h^ble Servant

Jonth Trumbull."

"Hon^{ble} Matthew Griswold,
Eliph^a Dyer & Wm Pitkin Esquires"

* One of the resolutions of this Convention was : "That it be recommended to the several States that have Acts laying an Embargo on the Transportation of Articles by Land from one State to another, to repeal them as being unnecessary, and tending rather to injure than serve the Common Cause we are engaged to support and maintain ; to continue Embargos on Provisions by Water, and that particular Care be taken to prevent all illicit Trade with the Enemy." The Acts here recommended to be repealed were intended to prevent scarcity, and keep down prices—their futility had been perceived. But the attention of this Convention was not given solely, or chiefly, to economical questions : "They urged the adoption of the Articles of Confederation," which is "regarded as the first public Expression of Opinion, by a deliberative Body, in Favor of such a Measure." See Proceedings of a Conv. of Delegates . . . held at Boston August 3-9, 1780 . . . By Franklin B. Hough. Albany, 1867, pp. 43-44, & Preface p. v.; and comp. Bancroft's Hist. of U. States . . . Rev. ed., Boston, 1876, vi. 343.

Next follows a letter from Samuel Huntington, touching an important crisis in the campaign of the South, which was followed, within about seven months, by the siege of Yorktown and the close of the war :²

"Philadelphia, March 5th, 1781.

"Gentlemen,

"My situation deprives me of the pleasure of communicating to you from time to time many occurrences to which Inclination would lead did time permit.]

"The situation of the Southern States hath been critical for some time ; after the battle at the Cowpens where Col. Tarlton was totally defeated, & upwards of five hundred of his Corps made prisoners by Gen'l Morgan, L^d Cornwallis, enraged, as it seems, at that Event, burnt and destroy'd his wagons and heavy baggage, & with his whole force, consisting of about three thousand, pursued Gen'l Morgan, his first object being suppos'd to be to retake the prisoners ; his pursuit was rapid for upwards of two hundred miles, until he arriv'd on the Southern borders of Virginia. Gen'l Morgan, by his Activity & prudence, with the assistance of a kind Providence, brought off his Troops & prisoners.

"This rapid movement of Cornwallis must have thrown the Country into consternation through which he marched, and met with no resistance until he arriv'd at Dan river on the borders of Virginia.

"Gen'l Greene, with his little army, consisting of but two thousand, was obliged to retreat over the river ; which was done without any loss of Troops or baggage.

"By a letter come to hand from Gov^r Jefferson, copy of which is enclos'd, it appears that the militia of the Country are rallied to that degree that Cornwallis is retreating, in his turn, towards Hillsborough, North Carolina, & Gen'l Greene in pursuit of him.

"The army under Cornwallis are such a distance from the protection of their shipping, nothing seems wanting but the spirited exertions of the Country in aid of Gen'l Greene to make them all prisoners ; but we must wait tho' with anxiety to know the Event.

"I have the Honour to be with the highest respect Your Humble Serv^t

Sam : Huntington."

"The Hon^{ble}
Judges of the Sup^r Court in Connecticut."

The next two letters which I give are from Roger Sherman :

"Philadelphia, Aug. 14th, 1781.

"Sir,

"A ship arrived here last Sabbath day from Cadiz, and brought Letters from our Minister and his Secretary at the Court of Spain : they mention that about 8000 Troops are ready to Embark on a Secret expedition, and confirm the accounts we have had from the London Papers of the resignation of Mr. Neckar, Financier of France, Occasioned by some Discontent.—The President received a Letter last Saturday from Gen'l Green, dated July 17th, giving account of the operations of his Army for about a month—he mentions the evacuation of Ninety Six by the Enemy, that they retired to Orangeburgh, about 80

* Comp. History of the United States of America. By Richard Hildreth. New York, 1856, iii. 343-48 ; and Bancroft's United States . . . Rev. ed., ut supra, vi. 380-94.

† The writer was at this time a Member of Congress.

miles from Charlestown ; that they also occupied a Post at Monk's Corner, about 26 miles from Charlestown ; that they have no Post in Georgia except Savannah ; that Georgia has resumed civil Government ; That a party of our men took three waggons & stores from the Enemy on a march from Charlestown toward Orangeburgh—that Col. Lee had taken a party of horse consisting of one Captain, one Lt & one Cornet, and 45 privates, with their horses and Accoutrements. It is expected that civil Government will soon be re-established in South Carolina. Mr. Jay wrote that he expected a Safe conveyance in about a fortnight from the time he wrote (May 29th), when he should send a long letter—I enclose a Copy of resolutions respecting the State of Vermont, which will prepare the way for a settlement of that controversy, they passed very unanimously.--

"The enclosed papers contain the news of the day. . . . Should be glad to be informed whether any provision of money is made for support of Government, I have about £100. due for service in the Sup^r Court which I should be glad to receive.—I wrote some time ago to the Gov^r & Council of Safety for some money to be sent to bear my expences here: *if I don't have some soon, I shall be totally destitute*, it is very expensive living here, *and no money can be obtained but from the State*. There are many refugees here from South Carolina & Georgia, lately redeemed from Captivity : Congress have recommended a loan & a Contribution for their relief.

"I am, Sir, with great Regard

Your Honor's obedient & humble servant

Roger Sherman."

"The honorable

Mathew Griswold, Esq^r."

"New Haven, July 12th, 1784.

"Sir,

"I received your Excellency's Letter of the 6th Instant, with the papers inclosed. The public service requires that the men should be furnished as soon as possible to take possession of the western Posts, which are expected soon to be evacuated by the British Garrisons, as also to Aid the Commissioners in treating with the Indians. The Secretary in the war office ought to have Informed Your Excellency what number & kinds of officers besides the Major are to be furnished by this State ; as the States are not to be at any expence in raising the men, I should think it would be most for the Interest of this State that your Excellency, with such advice as you may think proper to take, should appoint the officers, & order the men to be enlisted. I should think it would be well for your Excellency to take the opinion of the Hon. Oliver Wolcot who is one of the Commissioners to treat with the Indians : there seems to be a defect in the Laws as to the powers of the Supreme Executive authority in the State, or they are not sufficiently explicit in all cases.

"I have no doubt but that the Assembly would have desired your Excellency to have executed this requisition if they had known it would have been made.

"Your Excellency will be best able to Judge what will be expedient.

"I am with Great respect

Your Excellency's humble Servant

Roger Sherman."

"His Excellency Governor Griswold"

I give one more of Governor Griswold's own letters :

" Lyme, August 1, 1784

" Sir,

" I understand that *our Delegate is Detain'd from Congress only for want of money*: how far the want of Representation in that Important Body may affect the Interest & Safety of this State I know not—it is Certainly a very Dangerous Threatening Situation for this State to be in—I Inform'd you before that the Assembly had order'd Drafts to be made on the Sheriffs for that purpose, that those Drafts were made accordingly, and *Directed you to lay by the first money for that use you cou'd Collect*. I now Repeat the same Requi'sition in the Most Pressing manner, & Desire you will push the Collection with all Possible Dispatch, till you receive your part of the £200; and what money, more or less, you can obtain send forthwith to Stephen M. Mitchel, Esq^r at Weathersfield, who has the order, and is appointed one of the Delagates—It's but a small sum that is Required of Each of the Sheriffs—The Delay may be more Injurious than ten times the value of the Money—

" From S^r your most obedient
humble Serv^t

" Elijah Abel Esq^r"

Matth^w Griswold "

The last letter to be given here, from Oliver Wolcott, Governor Griswold's brother-in-law, though partly private, closes this series appropriately, by its reference to the retirement of the governor from public life:

" Litchfield, Nov^r 22^d 1788

" Sir,

" Your Excellency's Favour inclosing Mr Worthington's Sermon on the Death of my Sister has been rec^d. The Object of this Sermon (without Partiality) most certainly deserved all the Eulogium which the Preacher has bestowed upon her personal Virtues.—By her Death I am sensible you have lost a most Valuable Companion, and her other Relations and Acquaintance, a Person who was most dear to them.—

" But such is the Will of God, and it becomes us to Acquiesce in the Divine Dispensation. May we be prepared to meet her in that State of Happiness which will admit of no Separation !—All our Injoyments are fleeting and insecure, that which you mentioned relative to your discontinuance in publick Office evinces the Truth of the Observation.—But this event, tho' disagreeable, was not effected by false and insidious Insinuations to the Injury of your moral Character (which others have most unjustly supposed), but from an Apprehension that your want of Health would render the office very burdensome to yourself, and less beneficial to the State, than your former Administration had been, however ill-founded this Opinion might be. Yet the Consciousness of your own Integrity, and the Universal Opinion of the State in this respect, must render the event far less disagreeable than it would otherwise have been.—That you may finally be Approved of by that Being who cannot err is the Devout wish of, Sir,

Your most obed^t humble
Serv^t

Oliver Wolcott."

" Mrs. Wolcott presents
to you her sincere Respects."

Other letters have been preserved, from William Samuel Johnson, Col. William Ledyard, Roger Sherman, Stephen Mix Mitchell, Charles Thomson (Secretary of Congress), Oliver Wolcott, Samuel Huntington, Governor Treadwell, Jonathan Sturgis, James Wadsworth and Erastus Wolcott.

Here we pause to speak of Lyme and its position and influence in Revolutionary times. It was on the great route between Boston and New York. Old men still remember the heavily laden coaches, as their horses dashed up to the door of the old Parsons Tavern, which stood unfenced upon the wide, open green, horns blowing, dogs barking, boys running, neighbors gathering, while the passengers descended. Many persons of note trod "the dry, smooth-shaven green," and shook off the dust of travel. The landlord, Marshfield Parsons, had not removed to Newburyport with his father, the Rev. Jonathan Parsons, and his Griswold mother. His tavern and the ball-room over the back part of it were the resort of the neighbors for all assemblies, social and political. For religious purposes they climbed to the site of the meeting-house on the Meeting-House Hills. Near the green lived the pastor, Rev. Stephen Johnson, son of Mr. Nathaniel Johnson and Sarah Ogden, his wife, of Newark, N. J. The spirit of "good old John Ogden," the pioneer, seemed to have descended to him, and in this small, quiet village he had "scented the battle afar off," and ten years before the Revolution had published and disseminated fiery articles in opposition to the Stamp Act, which led to the banding together of the Sons of Liberty. Bancroft says: "Thus the Calvinist ministers nursed the flame of piety and of civil freedom. Of that venerable band, none did better service than the American-born Stephen Johnson, pastor of the First Church of Lyme." * Doubtless his zeal was increased by the ardor of his next neighbor, Mr. John McCurdy, a Scotch-Irish gentleman who had lived to early manhood amid the oppressions of the English Government in Ireland, and who eagerly assumed the expense of the publication and dissemination of the incendiary papers. Young Samuel Holden Parsons had been brought up under Johnson's teachings. When he led his command to Bunker Hill, Mr. Johnson, the spirit of "the church militant" stirring within him, left his pulpit, and accompanied Parsons's regiment as Chaplain. Matthew Griswold, under the same influences, fulfilled the patriotic duties of his lifetime. All these men were in constant communication, personal and by letter, with the leading men of the period. To them others would come. No

* History of the United States of America . . . By George Bancroft. The Author's last Revision. New York, 1883, iii. 141.

doubt many political meetings, both proposed and accidental, were convened on the arrival of the coach.

In other parts of the town lived Dr. John Noyes, a distinguished surgeon in the Revolutionary army, whose wife was a granddaughter of the first governor Wolcott of Connecticut, and a niece of Mrs. Gov. Matthew Griswold; Col. David Fithin Sill; Col. Samuel Selden; and other brave officers and soldiers of the Revolution, among whom was Capt. Ezra Lee, who was selected by Gen. Parsons, under directions from Washington, for the daring attempt, which proved unsuccessful, to blow up a British man-of-war in the harbor of New York.

When on the 9th of April, 1776, Gen. Washington slept at the house of Mr. McCurdy,* as he traveled from Boston to New York, after taking command of the American army, all the prominent men within reach gathered to take counsel with him. Again, when on the 27th of July, 1778, the young Gen. Lafayette marched through Lyme with his troops, and staid at the house of Mr. McCurdy on the green,† while they rested in a field nearly

* This house, built early in the eighteenth century, still stands in good condition, and is occupied by Judge Charles Johnson McCurdy, of the third generation of its occupants of the family. When, in 1824, General Lafayette made his triumphal journey through the country, he and his party breakfasted with Mr. Richard McCurdy of the second generation.

† The Professor of American History in Yale College, Professor Dexter, has favored me with the following notes:

“General Washington set out from Cambridge for New York Thursday, April 4, 1776.

“His first recorded stopping-place is Providence, which he left on Sunday, April 7.

“At Norwich, Governor Trumbull met him by appointment, and dined with him; and ‘in the evening’ (i.e. Monday afternoon, it would seem) the General started for New London [where he passed one night only, and breakfasted, as is known, on Tuesday at Caulkins’s tavern, between New London and Lyme].

“The next fixed date is his arrival in New Haven on Thursday morning, April 11 (according to the New Haven newspaper of the next week); and after a few hours’ tarry he pushed on towards New York, which he entered on Saturday.

“If tradition is good for anything, it can certainly be relied on to prove that General Washington slept in Lyme on Tuesday night, April 9th. He was accompanied by General Gates and other officers. Mrs. Washington came by way of Hartford, a few days later.”

“In reply to your inquiry . . . I send the following extract from the Diary kept at New Haven by President Stiles:

“‘1778, July 26. Lord’s Day. The 2 Brigades &c. lodged at Milford last night & travelled hither with their Baggage this Morning . . . The Troops began to enter the Town a little before vii o’clock . . .

“‘At ix the Marquis de la Fayette, aet. 22, and Gen. Varnum, with Col. Sherburn & Col. Fleury visited me . . . At iv P. M., just at the finishing of meetings, the whole Corps began their March and left the Town by iv½; at which Time the Marquis & his suite came up to Dr Daggett & myself just from Chapel, & took Leave. They proceed by 2 Roads, Gen. Varnum’s & Col. Philips’s viâ Middletown, Hartford, &c., Gen. Glover’s (in which the Marquis) viâ Seaside.’

opposite, all the surrounding country poured forth its inhabitants to do him honor.

In this connection it may not be amiss to mention that, about the year 1753, Benjamin Franklin, having then been appointed joint Postmaster-General for the colonies, and making a journey into New England on that business,* passed through Lyme in his chaise, measuring distances (as is said by some mechanical contrivance connected with the revolution of his wheels), at which mile-stones were set up by men who followed after him. One of those stones may still be seen on the Meeting-House Hills.

On his retirement from public life in 1788 Gov. Griswold devoted much time to farming operations, which indeed seem to have always interested him. Prof. Dexter has kindly called my attention to the following curious entries in the manuscript "Itinerary" of a journey from New London to New Haven in October, 1790, by Pres. Stiles:

"Gov^r Griswold now aet. 76, born at Lyme 1710,† fitted for College, settled a Farmer: studied law *proprio Marte*, bo't him the first consider'd Law Library in Connect^t, took Att^o oath & began practice 1743—a great Reader of Law.

"Has a fine Library of well chosen Books, 140 Fol. & 400 other Volumes, or about 550 Volumes, now left in his Study, besides a part of his Lib^r given to his Son in Norwich—about 200 Law Books, the rest Hist^y & Divinity.

"On leaving the chair of Gov^r he went to Farming. He has a Farm of 400 acres, stock 100 Head of Cattle, cuts 100 Loads Hay, Eng. besides Salt, 22 acres Ind^h corn & 80 Bush^s Wheat & 400 Bush^s oats Raised this year. Hires 6 or 7 men; 38 & 40 cows, Dairy 3m.^{lb} cheese, 400^{lb} Butter Fall Sales. In perfect Health of Body & Mind. Lame yet Vigorous. Cart^s 400 Loads Dung, sea weed &c., last year. At close of Gov^r had 40 Head Cattle & cut 40 or 50 Loads Hay only. Has 50 acres Salt Marsh; 18 or 20 stacks Hay now round his Barn, 3 or 4 Tons each."

On a subsequent leaf is the following Memorandum:

"Gov^r Griswold's Farm Stock 1790

23 Hogs, 8 yoke Oxen, 17 Fat Cattle, 25 Cows, 3000^{lb} cheese, 400^{lb} Butter, 8000^{lb} Beet sale or 17 Fat Cattle, 400 Bush^s Oats, 500 do. Ind. corn, 100 Loads Eng. Hay, 80 do. salt do., 500^{lb} Flax, 45 Bush^s Wheat, 120 do. Rye, 105 sheep."

The Griswold family-archives also contain a paper entitled "Remarks on Liberty and the African Trade," by Governor Griswold, dated July 1st 1795, and apparently intended for publication. Domestic slaves appear to

"I suppose this fixes the date of Lafayette's visit at Lyme as Monday, July 27, 1778. I learn from Sparks's Letters of Washington that Lafayette reached Providence on Wednesday, July 29."

* See Life of Benjamin Franklin. . . By Jared Sparks . . . Boston, 1844, p. 174.

† A slip of the pen for 1714—the true date—as he gives his age as 76.

have been owned in the Griswold family from the earliest times, as was the case in most New England families of the higher class. But the opportunity is a rare one to know by his own words, in a somewhat lengthy argument, how the subject was viewed by one of the Revolutionary patriots of New England. There are several drafts of this paper, differing slightly; I use that which seems the most finished. The whole course of thought will be made clear by the following abstract and quotations :

Man was created in absolute dependence upon the Almighty, and, for his good, was originally placed under laws, obedience to which "fixes the subject in the highest Liberty." But he willfully disobeyed, whereupon, instead of exacting the full penalty, God allowed "fallen man to incorporate into a state of Civil Government . . . as the Circumstances of Each Common Wealth sho'd Require . . ." the power of the State being limited to temporal rights and properties, exclusive of "matters of Conscience & a Superintending Power . . ."

"So that upon the ground of Creation, Preservation and Redemption every man is Born under the most Inviolable Subjection of obedience to the Divine Law and also under Subjection to the Civil Laws of the Common Wealth where he happens to be, that are not Contrary to the Divine Law . . . Nothing is more injurious to Civil Society than using a Licentious Liberty . . ."

Natural right to absolute liberty is a fallacy. "In regard to the African Trade, to set the matter in its true light, it is necessary to Consider the state of those People in their Native Country, constantly at war with one another, and liable to be put to the sword by the victor . . ."

"The question arises whether Transporting those Captives from their Native Country can be warrantable. Any suppos'd wrong must arise from one of two things : either from a Tortious Entry into the Territories of a foreign State, trampling upon their Laws, Disturbing the Peace ; or from Personal Wrong done to the Individuals Remov'd. In Regard to the first, as the Captives, by the Laws of that Country, are made an Article of Commerce, to Enter for Trade cannot be Tortious ; Respecting the Latter, it's nessasary to Compare the state of those Persons before and after their Removal ;"

being in their native country in heathenish darkness, and under despotism, whereas in Connecticut they become

"plac'd under the Government of a master who is bound to Provide nessasaries sufficient for their Comfort in Life, are Protected by Law from Cruelty and oppression, if abused have their Remedy . . . against their own master . . ."

"*The notion of some that Slavery is worse than Death is a most Capital Error.* For, as a State of Trial & Probation for Happiness thro' an Endless Eternity is the greatest

favor that was ever Granted to a fallen Creature, as Death puts a final End to that State of Trial, so Life must be of more Importance than any other Enjoyment can be in this world . . .

"Those held in service may be Divided into five Classes: The aggressor in War seems to take the first Rank: he, by taking a part in a Bloody War forfeits both Life & Liberty together, may be slain; as Liberty is only a part of the Forfeiture, the Captor, by taking a part for the whole, does the Captive no Injustice: the Instance of the Gibeonites is a voucher for" holding such to service . . . "The next Class to be Considered is the Innocent Captives who have taken no active part in the war . . . to purchase those Captives, and bring them away, is to Save their lives, is a meritorious act, Entitles the Purchaser, by the Laws of Salvage, to the Purchase-Money by the Labor of the Captive . . . The next Class . . . those sold for Adultery or other Atrocious Crimes . . . there can be no Doubt but they ought to be Punished," and by the Laws of Moses were punished even by death. " . . . The next class is those Kidnapped by Gangs of Private Robbers . . . many of those Poor Children are bro't many hundred miles, and if they were Releas'd on the Sea Coast there is no Chance they wou'd ever arrive at the places of their Nativity . . . if the Purchase was Refus'd, those Abandoned Villains who Committed the fact wou'd probably put all to the Sword—what then sho'd hinder the Laws of Salvage from taking place in such case of Life & Death, but that the Purchaser ought to Step in, & Redeem the Poor Prisoners, take the part of a kind Guardian to them, hold them in Reasonable service till they have paid the Purchase-money, then Release them if they behave well? . . . As to those Born here, tho' some hold that the Son must be Considered in the likeness of the Father, that, if the Father be in Bondage, the Son must be so too . . . that seems carrying the point too far; but it seems those Children cannot be considered entitled to the Priviledges of free Denizens, for, as the Father was an Alien, and that Disability not Remov'd, the Son must be so too . . . *Political Priviledges are Hereditary* . . . Therefore, upon the Ground of Debt, the Son may be Rightfully held till he has paid that Debt for his Support, Education, Schooling, etc. . . .

"By a Sovereign Act to set them all free at one blow, and Dissolve the Legal Right of the Masters to their Service, which the Masters Purchased with their own money, under the Sanction of the Law, wou'd be Rather using the Law as a Snare to Deceive the People . . .

"The master ought to learn his servant to Read and understand the Bible . . . Supply him with the necessaries of Life in a Reasonable Manner, in Sickness and health, speak kindly to him, Encourage him in his Business, give him the Praise when he does well, Chear his Spirits, *but not with fondness or Familiarity*; let him know his Proper Distance, at the same time give him Moral Evidence of Sensitive Friendship, frown upon vice . . . Govern him with a steady hand, not with Undue Severity . . . If those measures were Properly Pursued, it wou'd be laying the ax at the Root of the Tree, and I sho'd hope for better times . . .

"I am sensible that the Idea of being Commanded at the will of another is Disagreeable to the feelings of the Humane mind under its Present Depravity; but *that Impression is merely Imaginary*. . . Those Servants in Connecticut under the care & Guardianship of kind masters, and contented where they are well Provided for, without any care or anxiety of their own, are some of the Happiest People in the State . . . but such is the Misery of the fallen Race that many of them cannot bear Prosperity: Preferment, Wealth, Respect and kindness Inflames their Pride and Haughtiness. . . . I wish that every Per-

son was Possess'd of the Virtue, Industry and Prudence that Qualifies a Person for Freedom, and Proper Measures were taken to make all free; But to set such free as ought to be Restrained wou'd tend to sap the foundations of Civil Government. . . . I wou'd Query whether the same Principles which Induced the . . . Society [for emancipation] to undertake to Relieve against the Tyranny & oppression of Cruel Masters does not Equally oblige to Endeavour, if Possible, to Relieve these Poor People against the Soul-Ruining advise of some bad People, and also against the Excess of their own Misconduct. . . .

"I hope for wise Reasons the future Importation of Slaves into this State will be Effectually Prevented—it seems the foundation for it is laid already. No Common Wealth can hardly be more hurt than by bringing bad People into it, or making them so that are in it already. Some men of Sensibility seem to hold that holding those People in Service is one of the Crying Sins of the Land, while others Congratulate them upon their Deliverance from Heathenish Darkness: many appear Ignorant of the True Principles upon which natural Liberty is founded, which can consist in Nothing Else than in a Spirit of Obedience to the Divine Law . . . July 1st, 1795."

To the foregoing a few sentences should be added with respect to Governor Griswold's personal character. I quote from a funeral sermon preached on his death, by the Rev. Lathrop Rockwell of Lyme :

"In this, & in all the offices which he sustained, he distinguished himself as a faithful servant of the public; and the whole tenor of his conduct was happily designated with fidelity, integrity, uprightness and a high regard for the good of his constituents.

"But, if we descend to the more private walks of life, and view his character as a private citizen, we shall find the social sweetly blended with the Christian virtues. He possessed a benevolent disposition, which rendered his deportment truly engaging in all the domestic relations. Having a frank and open heart, he was sincere in all his professions of friendship . . . He was truly hospitable, and abounded in acts of charity" * . . .

Conspicuous as Governor Griswold became in public life, and accustomed as he was from early days to express his opinions on important subjects, he was yet naturally diffident and shy. He had some time desired to marry a lady in Durham, Conn., of a family since distinguished in Western New York. She, however, preferred to marry a physician, and kept Matthew Griswold in waiting, ready to accept him in case the doctor did not come forward. With some intimation of this state of affairs, and aroused by it, Matthew Griswold at last pressed the lady for a decision. She answered hesitatingly that she "wished for more time." "Madam," said he, rising with decision, "I give you your *lifetime*," and withdrew. She *took* her lifetime, and never married. Naturally diffident as he was, and rendered by this discomfiture still more self-distrustful, he might

* A Sermon delivered at the funeral of his Excellency Matthew Griswold Esq. . . . By Lathrop Rockwell . . . New London, 1802, pp. 14-15.

have never approached a lady again. His second cousin Ursula Wolcott and he had exchanged visits at the houses of their parents from childhood, till a confiding affection had grown up between them. His feelings were understood, but not declared. Time passed; it might be that he would take *his* lifetime. At last, Ursula, with the resolution, energy and good sense which characterized her, seeing the situation, rose to its control. Meeting him about the house, she occasionally asked him: "What did you say, cousin Matthew?" "Nothing," he answered. Finally, meeting him on the stairs, she asked: "What did you *say*, cousin Matthew?" "Nothing," he answered. "It's *time* you *did*," said she. Then he *did*, and the result was a long and happy marriage, in which his wife shared his anxieties, counsels and successes, brought up a superior family of children, and in his frequent absences, and when he was overburthened with cares, administered the concerns of a large farm, and controlled a numerous household of negro servants and laborers.

The marriage of Ursula Wolcott and Matthew Griswold re-united two of the leading families of Connecticut, by the new bond of a singular identity of official position; for the lady was both daughter, sister, wife, aunt, and, as we shall presently see, mother, too, of a governor of the State. This singular coincidence led a living descendant of hers* to discover the still more remarkable fact that around the name of this lady could be grouped, as all belonging in a sense to her family-circle, twelve Governors of States, thirty-six high Judges (most of them distinct persons from any of the governors), and many other eminent men. The particulars have been briefly stated in a very interesting paper, which on every account deserves a place in this memorial record:

" Family Circle
of
Mrs. Ursula (Wolcott) Griswold. †

" Ursula Wolcott was born in Windsor (now South Windsor), Connecticut, Oct. 30, 1724; married Matthew Griswold of Lyme, Connecticut, Nov. 11, 1743; and died April 5, 1788.

" I. GOVERNORS.

" 1. *Roger Wolcott*, her father, was Governor of Connecticut.

" 2. *Oliver Wolcott, Sen.*, her brother, was Governor of Connecticut; also Signer of the Declaration of Independence.

" 3. *Oliver Wolcott, Jr.*, her nephew, was Governor of Connecticut; also Secretary of the Treasury under Washington.

* Mrs. Edward E. Salisbury.

† From New Engl. Hist. and Geneal. Register. Boston, 1879, xxxiii. 223-25, with additions.

- "4. *Matthew Griswold, Sen.*, her husband, was Governor of Connecticut.
- "5. *Roger Griswold*, her son, was Governor of Connecticut; also was offered by the elder President Adams, but declined, the post of Secretary of War.
- "6. *William Wolcott Ellsworth*, her first cousin's grandson, was Governor of Connecticut.
- "7. *William Pitkin, 3d*, her second cousin, was Governor of Connecticut.
- "8. *William Woodbridge*, her grandnephew through her husband, was Governor of Michigan.
- "9. *Jonathan Trumbull, Sen.*, her third cousin through the Drakes, was Governor of Connecticut.
- "10. *Jonathan Trumbull, Jr.*, fourth cousin of her children, was Governor of Connecticut; also Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; also United States Senator.
- "11. *Joseph Trumbull*, her remoter cousin, was Governor of Connecticut.
- "12. *Frederick W. Pitkin*, of the same Pitkin blood as herself, was lately Governor of Colorado.

"II. JUDGES.

- "1. *Roger Wolcott*, her father (I. 1), was Judge of the Superior Court, Connecticut.
- "2. *Roger Wolcott, Jr.*, her brother, was Judge of the Superior Court, Connecticut.
- "3. *Erastus Wolcott*, her brother, was Judge of the Superior Court, Connecticut.
- "4. *Oliver Wolcott*, her brother (I. 2), was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Connecticut.
- "5. *Oliver Wolcott*, her nephew (I. 3), was Judge of the United States Circuit Court.
- "6. *Josiah Wolcott*, her second cousin, was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Massachusetts.
- "7. *Matthew Griswold, Sen.*, her husband (I. 4), was Chief Justice of Connecticut.
- "8. *Matthew Griswold, Jr.*, her son, was Judge of the Supreme Court, Connecticut.
- "9. *Roger Griswold*, her son (I. 5), was Judge of the Supreme Court, Connecticut.
- "10. *Oliver Ellsworth*, who married her first cousin's daughter Abigail Wolcott, was Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court; also United States Senator; also United States Envoy Extraordinary to the Court of France.
- "11. *William Wolcott Ellsworth* (I. 6), son of Abigail (Wolcott) Ellsworth, was Judge of the Supreme Court, Connecticut.
- "12. *Samuel Holden Parsons*, her nephew through her husband, was appointed by Washington the first Chief Justice of the Northwest Territory.
- "13. *Stephen Titus Hosmer*, who married her grandniece Lucia Parsons, was Chief Justice of Connecticut.
- "14. *Thomas Scott Williams*, who married Delia Ellsworth, granddaughter of Abigail (Wolcott) Ellsworth, was Chief Justice of Connecticut.
- "15. *William Pitkin, 2d*, first cousin of her father, was Judge of the Superior Court, and Chief Justice of Connecticut.
- "16. *William Pitkin, 3d*, her second cousin (I. 7), was Chief Justice of Connecticut.
- "17. *William Pitkin, 4th*, third cousin of her children, was Judge of the Supreme Court, Connecticut.
- "18. *Matthew Allyn*, who married her second cousin Elizabeth Wolcott, was Judge of the Superior Court, Connecticut.

- " 19. *Jonathan Trumbull, Sen.*, her third cousin (I. 9), was Chief Justice of Conn.
- " 20. *John Trumbull*, of the same descent, was Judge of the Superior Court, Conn.
- " 21. *James Lanman*, who married her granddaughter Marian Chandler, was Judge of the Supreme Court, Connecticut.
- " 22. *Lafayette S. Foster*, who married her great-granddaughter Joanna Lanman, was Judge of the Supreme Court, Connecticut; also United States Senator, and Acting Vice-President of the United States.
- " 23. *Nathaniel Pope*, who married her grandniece Lucretia Backus, was Judge of the United States Court of Illinois.
- " 24. *Henry T. Backus*, her grandnephew, who married her grandniece Juliana Trumbull Woodbridge, was Judge of the United States Court of Arizona.
- " 25. *William Woodbridge*, her grandnephew (I. 8), was Judge of the Supreme Court, Michigan.
- " 26. *Ebenezer Lane*, her grandson, who married her granddaughter Frances Griswold, was Chief Justice of Ohio.
- " 27. *William Griswold Lane*, her great-grandson, who married her great-granddaughter Elizabeth Diodate Griswold, was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Ohio.
- " 28. *Charles Johnson McCurdy*, her great-grandson, was Judge of the Supreme Court, Connecticut; also United States Chargé d'Affaires in Austria; also Member of the Peace Congress of 1861.
- " 29. *Sherlock J. Andrews*, who married her great-granddaughter Ursula McCurdy Allen, was Judge of the Superior Court, Ohio.
- " 30. *John Henry Bault*, her great-grandson, was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Nevada.
- " 31. *Charles Allen*, late Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts, was of the same Pitkin blood as herself.
- " 32. *Aaron Hackley*, who married Sophia Griswold, her great-great-grandniece (a descendant of her brother Oliver), was Judge of the Supreme Court of New York.
- " 33. *Josiah Hives*, descended from her brother Roger, was Circuit Judge, Michigan.
- " 34. *Henry Baldwin*, son of her second cousin Theodora Wolcott, was a Justice of the United States Supreme Court.
- " 35. *Henry Matson Waite*, Chief Justice of Connecticut, and
- " 36. *Morrison Remick Waite*, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, descended from her own and her husband's ancestor Henry Wolcott, the first of the name in this country, and from her husband's ancestor the first Matthew Griswold.

" Notes.

" Most of those above named as Governors and Judges held, also, other high offices. All those mentioned as connected with Mrs. Griswold through her husband were also related to her by Wolcott blood, her husband and herself having been second cousins.

" Dr. Trumbull, in his History of Connecticut, i. 227, note, says: 'Some of the [Wolcott] family have been Members of the Assembly, Judges of the Superior Court, or Magistrates, from the first settlement of the colony to this time—A.D. 1797—during the term of more than a century and a half.' According to Mr. J. Hammond Trumbull, LL.D., Gov. William Pitkin 'belonged to a family in which the honors of office seemed to have become hereditary. A Pitkin sat at the Council-board for three-quarters of a century, six or seven

years only excepted.' A similar remark might be applied to the public life of the Griswolds and Trumbulls.

"Among the connections of Mrs. Griswold, not mentioned, have been many men eminent in the learned professions, judges of other courts, members of both Houses of Congress, eminent merchants, military officers of high rank, etc.

"*Professor Simon Greenleaf*, the distinguished professor of law in Harvard University, was her grandnephew through her husband. *Mr. George Griffin*, the eminent lawyer of New York, and the famous *Rev. Dr. Edward Dorr Griffin*, were of the same Wolcott and Griswold lineage as herself and her husband.

"*Christopher P. Wolcott* of Ohio, who was Attorney-General of Ohio, afterwards Judge-Advocate-General, and died when Assistant Secretary of War, was her great-grandnephew.

"*Lyman Trumbull*, Justice of the Supreme Court, Illinois, also United States Senator, is of the same Drake descent as the Trumbulls named in the lists.

"Gov. Roger Wolcott, Mrs. Griswold's father (I. 1), was Major-General in command of the Connecticut troops in the expedition to Cape Breton, and in the siege and capture of Louisburg, in 1745. Judge Erastus Wolcott (II. 3) and Gov. Oliver Wolcott (I. 2), her brother, were Brigadier-Generals in the Revolution. Judge Parsons (II. 12) was Major-General in the Revolution, and was a member of the Court Martial selected by Washington for the trial of Major André.

"*Major-General John Pope*, U. S. A., son of Judge Pope (II. 23), was distinguished in the late civil war; as were many of her young descendants, one of whom, the heroic Captain John Griswold, gave his life at Antietam.

"*General James S. Wadsworth*, of Geneseo, N. Y., killed in the battle of the Wilderness, was descended from several branches of her Wolcott family. Gen. Wadsworth's sister Elizabeth married the Hon. Charles Augustus Murray, son of the Earl of Dunmore.

"Her great-great-granddaughter Eleanora Lorillard, daughter of Lorillard Spencer and of her great-granddaughter Sarah Griswold, is the wife of Prince Virginio Cenci of Vicovaro, etc., Chamberlain to the reigning King of Italy. Princess Cenci is now one of the Ladies of Honor to the Queen."

Governor Matthew Griswold and his wife both lie buried in the Duck River Burying-Ground at Lyme.

The following are their epitaphs:

"This monument is erected to the memory of Matthew Griswold Esq., late Governor of the State of Connecticut, who died on the 28th day of April in the year 1769—aged 85 years and 28 days.

"*Sic transit gloria mundi.*"

"Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Ursula Griswold, the amiable consort of Matthew Griswold Esq., late Governor of the State of Connecticut. She departed this life on the 5th day of April, 1788, in the 64th year of her age."

Their children were:

1. JOHN (see next page).



2. *Matthew*, born April 17, 1760; graduated at Yale College in 1780; who married, September 4, 1788, Lydia, daughter of Deacon Seth Ely of Lyme; and, having settled in Lyme, died there, June 10, 1842, s. p. A letter from his father to him while in college, now lying before me, is too characteristic of the times to be left out of this record:

.. Lyme, Nov. 18th 1779.

"Dear Son,

"Thro' Divine Goodness wee are all in usual health—I have herewith Sent You a Thirty Dollar bill to purchase a Ticket in the Continental Lottery in the Third Class: *I suppose they are to be had in New Haven of Deacon Austin; I wish you good Success with it. If they are not to be had in New Haven, you will Enquire & purchase one Elsewhere*—If there be no Chance to purchase one, lay up your Money, and keep it safe. —I hope you will pursue your Studies with Dilligence & Industry—But above all keep Holy the Sabbath Day & *pay all Possible Regard to Religion: a vertuous Life is the only Foundation upon which you can Depend to be Comfortable here & Happy in the Coming World*—the Joy of your Friends and a Blessing to the world.

"From your affectionate Father

Matth^w Griswold"

"Matth^w Griswold Jun^r"

He learnt the science and practice of law from his father; became, in time, Chief Judge of the County Court of New London; and some of the men of later times most eminent in the legal profession studied law under his direction, together with that of his more distinguished brother Roger, including Judge James Gould, afterwards at the head of the famous law-school of Litchfield, Conn., Chief Justice Henry Matson Waite and Judge Hungerford.

Edward Elbridge Salisbury

exercised sway over numerous tribes in their vicinity. Yet they did not secure them as tributaries, exacted no levies, and required their aid only when other and more warlike tribes, by repeated encroachments, forced them to the field. On such occasions, their arrangements partook of more order and gave evidence of a higher knowledge of military tactics than was common at that early day among the aborigines. Possessing all necessary courage, they were cautious, prudent and most determined in battle, yet at all times open to honorable propositions for peace.

The opinion formed by Iberville of the unflinching bravery and determined courage of this peculiar people, as well as their will and power to protect themselves from injury, was proven upon further acquaintance to be correct; and from this fact, the French were for a time induced to act with greater caution and circumspection in their dealings with them than was always the case with the white intruders toward the lords of the soil. At first kindness was returned for kindness, and nothing but slight retaliation was inflicted for any slight injury inflicted on one of their number, but, as was generally the case, the whites became encouraged after an intercourse of the most amicable and friendly character had continued for several years, and began to encroach upon the gallant natives. At first infringing slightly upon their rights, then by trivial exactions and unwise boasting. The pride and wrath of the free sons of the forest were at last excited. Remonstrances against repeated outrages, of seemingly small import, were made; an unwilling ear was turned to them. The natives referred with pride to the time when the infant colony derived its sole support from their kindness, and endeavored to awaken the better feelings of the French to a sense of the injustice and wrong inflicted by minor officials of their colony, who were too far removed from the chief of the government to be under his immediate notice—but all in vain. The moment came when forbearance ceased. On the morning of December 28, 1729, the Natchez Indians arose in their wrath and murdered every Frenchman in the colony. While rejoicing in their success they were in turn attacked January 28, 1730, by the Choctaws, under the leadership of Le Sueur, who took swift and terrible vengeance for the slaughter of his countrymen. A few days later Soubois, at the head of the French troops, completed the work of destruction.

Part of the doomed tribe escaped across the Mississippi to the vicinity of Natchitoches, but the fortress they there erected could not long withstand the force sent against it. The chief and over four hundred of the tribe were taken prisoners and sold as slaves, while some were incorporated with the Chickasaws and Muskogeas, and others fled to the far West. Thus perished the Natchez Indians.

THE GRISWOLD FAMILY OF CONNECTICUT*

WITH PEDIGREE

III

3. *Roger*, born May 21, 1762; graduated at Yale College in 1780, in the same class with his brother Matthew. He studied law with his father; was admitted to the bar of New London in 1783; and was chosen to be a Representative in Congress in 1794, which place he filled for the ten following years. In 1801 he was appointed Secretary of War by President Adams, but declined the honor, having previously requested that the nomination might be withdrawn. He was a Judge of the Superior Court from 1807 to 1809; was elected by the Legislature Lieut.-Governor of Connecticut in 1809, and continued to hold that office till 1811, when, by popular vote, he became Chief Magistrate of the State. He died in the chief magistracy, Oct. 25, 1812. In all positions he proved himself a born "master of men." Of his early career as an advocate it is related by an eye-witness that on one occasion, when only twenty-six years old, being called to argue before the Supreme Court an important case "involving many intricate questions," in company with another "gentleman of the first rank in his profession," he did his work so thoroughly well that his associate was constrained to acknowledge "that after the very able argument of the very ingenious young gentleman who had just sat down, any observations from him could answer no other purpose than to injure his client's cause." † A very handsome man, with flashing black eyes, a commanding figure and majestic mien, as described by one still living who often saw him, ‡ he seemed even by outward presence born to rule.

The National Hall of Representatives was the chief field of his influence. Here, during part of President Washington's administration, the whole of that of President Adams, and especially during a part of the administration of President Jefferson, when he was in the opposition, he stood forth as the fearless yet always courteous, the uncompromising though cautious, champion of the political principles of the school of Washington. Though commanding, he was never arbitrary. His opin-

† An Eulogium . . . of His Excellency Roger Griswold . . . By David Daggett . . . New Haven, 1812. pp. 9, 10.

‡ Judge Charles J. McCurdy of Lyme.

* Copyright, 1884, by Edward Elbridge Salisbury.

ions were always respectfully heeded, even by his opponents, however they might argue against them, in frank debate, or seek for vulnerable points at which to assail him secretly, or endeavor to pierce his armor with shafts of raillery, as did John Randolph of Roanoke, his frequent antagonist in the discussion of important questions. Most of the great public questions of his time have either passed out of the minds of the present generation, or assumed new aspects through the onward rush of events—"tempora mutantur, nos et mutamur cum illis"—so that a detailed review of the political life of Roger Griswold, except in an elaborate biography, might be out of place. But justice requires that this family-memorial should recognize his profound loyalty to principle, his supreme and unswerving regard to what he thought to be right, irrespective of considerations of expediency, which caused it to be said of him: "There is no duty he will not be found adequate to, nor any one from which he will shrink,"* and which "extorted even from his political adversaries an affection for his worth, a reverence for his pre-eminent talents."† The secret of his power lay, as has been said, in the "wonderful promptness" of his mind, which "penetrated every subject presented to it," and "saw it clearly and in all its connections. What others gained by study and reflection he attained by intuition. Having no obliquity of intention, he went directly to his object."‡ No one can read the Journal of Congress during his membership in the House without noticing how invariably he viewed every subject brought up as it was affected by the fundamental law of the land, the Constitution, and by constitutional interpretations.

As expressive of the trust reposed in him by others of the eminent patriots of his day, a fact perhaps not generally known may be here recorded—that some of the leading Federalists who met, after his death, in the famous Hartford Convention, had had their attention turned to him for President in the possible contingency of a separation of the New England States from the rest of the Union. This fact was communicated to me by the late Mr. Frederick H. Wolcott, of Astoria, L. I., as he heard it from his father, a brother of Gov. Oliver Wolcott, who often spoke of Gov. Griswold, says his son, "in terms of affection, and profound respect for his eminent qualities," though he was not in sympathy with the political opinions of the Old Federalist leaders.

Here it is proper to speak of the personal violence committed on Mr.

* Letter of Chauncey Goodrich to Oliver Wolcott, Sen., dated Mar. 26, 1796, in *Memoirs of the Administrations of Washington and John Adams* . . . By George Gibbs . . . New York, 1846, i. 324.

† Daggett's Eulogium, *ut supra*, p. 12.

‡ *Id.*, *ibid.*

Griswold by Matthew Lyon in 1798, and Mr. Griswold's resentment of it. I relate the occurrence in the words of a son of the late Josiah Quincy of Massachusetts, a fellow Congressman and political as well as personal friend of Mr. Griswold :

"In 1797 he [Lyon] went to Congress, where he inaugurated, in Jan. 1798, the series of acts of personal insult and violence which have disgraced Congress, from time to time, from that day to this, by spitting in the face of Mr. Griswold of Connecticut, on some occasion of offense he took at him. The House refusing to expel him by a strict party vote, Mr. Griswold took justice into his own hands, and caned him in his seat a few days afterwards, for which singular process of redress he too went scot-free, also by a party vote, neither the Administration nor the Opposition commanding the two-thirds requisite for the expulsion of a member." *

The motives which actuated Mr. Griswold in the course he took in this affair will be best understood from a private letter to his wife, dated Philadelphia, Feb. 28, 1798, in which he says :

"After the decision of the house which retained the wretch in his seat, I found but two courses which (in my opinion) I cou'd possibly take—either to address a letter to the House, and in severe language criminate the conduct of the minority in the House, and resign my seat, or to pursue the course which I have taken—chastise the rascal in his seat, and by that act chastise both him and the party, and in defiance of them all let them know that I knew how to avenge my own wrongs, and that I was not to be driven from my seat by any villainy of theirs. To the first of these measures there were very great objections—I did not feel willing to return into Connecticut, after the insult I had received in so public a manner, without taking satisfaction . . . in addition to which circumstance the idea of being driven from the House by a minority, when a majority were giving me every support in their power, and were prepared to vindicate every step which I should take, seemed to carry along with it a certain meanness of spirit and want of resolution which was wholly inadmissible ; the other course, although attended with difficulties, was in my opinion much to be preferred : it look'd like going forward, conscious of the injury which I had received, and at the same time with a determination to punish it, in defiance of faction, and a resolution to maintain my situation without fearing the efforts of villains to discourage me. The events have completely justified the measure, and, although my enemies may condemn the harshness of the remedy, yet my friends will approve of it : the newspaper squibs which have and will appear on the occasion are of no consequence—they may tell lies as usual, but they cannot take off the beating."

The same views are expressed in a letter to his father, dated March 19, 1798, as follows :

"I have no idea of committing any further violence myself ; the violence which I committed by chastising the Vermonter had become absolutely necessary—I was reduced to the necessity either of leaving Congress with disgrace to myself, and, in addition thereto

* Life of Josiah Quincy . . . By his son Edmund Quincy. Boston, 1868, p. 327.



to leave a stigma on the State which wou'd be constantly thrown at our Representatives, or to wipe off the stigma by inflicting a public chastisement. I chose the latter, as I believe every man who possess'd any spirit wou'd have done ; and, although I regret the occasion, yet I believe I shall never lament the measure."

This is the inner history of the much-talked-of "affair" between Roger Griswold and Matthew Lyon. It will be seen that Mr. Griswold's course was not prompted by any spirit of revenge : he shrank from the act of personal violence, and only resorted to it because no other redress could be obtained. In accordance with the spirit of the times, his "honor must be maintained." If he had been a Southerner, he would have promptly challenged Lyon to a duel ; being a Northerner, accustomed to self-control, and attaching a high value to human life, he did but stand on the defensive in a manly use of nature's weapons. The power of the old Griswold champion, his ancestor, came over him ; the sense of right and an indignant revolt against the gross injury he had received added strength to his tall, athletic form ; and in the presence of the Congress before which he had been insulted he vindicated his honor, and silenced his opponent.

"As a judge," to quote again the words of another, "that sincerity, that incorruptible integrity which adorned his life, eminently appeared. His very respectable associates on the judgment-seat, and the suitors and advocates who witnessed his deportment, will testify that all the vehemence and ardour of the advocate were left at the bar, and that candour, patience & deliberation governed his conduct. His discernment & virtue were a protection to the innocent ; the oppressor and the fraudulent, like the wicked, were scattered with his eye." *

During the brief time he occupied the gubernatorial chair, though already suffering from mortal illness, he was unsparing of himself in his devotion to the interests of his native State, amid unusual perplexities arising from national events, as well as from the settlement of delicate questions which they called for, concerning the relations of State to National authority.

He was a dutiful son, an affectionate husband and father. He was of a social nature ; warm in his friendships, græcious of deportment in the general intercourse of society, sympathetic towards all objects of public utility, and a benefactor of the needy.

The following extracts from his speeches are given as specimens of his style of argument and modes of expression in public debate. They are from speeches delivered by him as Member of Congress in 1802 and 1803, on a call for papers relative to the Louisiana Treaty, on a proposed amend-

* Daggett's Eulogium, *ut supra*, pp. 13-14.

ment to the Constitution respecting the election of President, and on the constitutional right of Congress to unseat judges by repealing the law regulating their appointment.

Discussing the first of these subjects, he said :

"I am one of those who do now believe, and always have believed, that the exclusive right of forming treaties resides in the President & Senate ; and that, when ratified, it is the duty of every department of the Government to carry them into effect. This treaty, then, if fairly and constitutionally made, is a law of the land, and we are bound to execute it. But it is necessary to know its nature & effects, to carry it into execution. If it is a mere dead letter, there is no necessity for any laws whatever. . . . In my judgment the treaty is uncertain. . . . If we have acquired the country & people, it is certainly proper to pass laws for the preservation of order and tranquillity ; but if we have acquired neither, whence the necessity of passing such laws ? It would be improper ; it would be usurpation. We contend that the treaty does not ascertain these points ; gentlemen differ from us in opinion. But I beg them calmly and seriously to attend to its language. By the first article it appears that Spain promised to cede Louisiana to France on certain stipulations. She *promises* to cede. Gentlemen cannot mistake the import of the language ; it is a promise, not a cession. Will it be said that France acquired any title by this promise ? . . . The terms of the treaty are, 'Whereas, in pursuance of the treaty [of Ildefonso], and particularly of the third article, the French Republic has an incontestible title,' &c. Will gentlemen say that this assertion on the part of France gives her a title ? It gives her no title. An assertion by France cannot affect Spain. . . ."

And again :

"By this article it is declared : 'That the inhabitants of the ceded territory shall be incorporated into the Union of the United States, and admitted as soon as possible, according to the principles of the Constitution, to the enjoyment of all the rights, advantages and immunities of citizens.' It is, perhaps, somewhat difficult to ascertain the precise effect which it was intended to give the words which have been used in this stipulation. It is, however, clear that it was intended to incorporate the inhabitants of the ceded territory into the Union, by the treaty itself, or to pledge the faith of the nation that such an incorporation should take place within a reasonable time. It is proper, therefore, to consider the question with a reference to both constructions.

"It is, in my opinion, scarcely possible for any gentleman on this floor to advance an opinion that the President and Senate may add to the members of the Union by treaty whenever they please. . . . Such a power would be directly repugnant to the original compact between the States, and a violation of the principles on which that compact was formed. It has been already well observed that the union of the States was formed on the principle of a copartnership, and it would be absurd to suppose that the agents of the parties who have been appointed to execute the business of the compact, in behalf of the principals, could admit a new partner without the consent of the parties themselves. And yet, if the first construction is assumed, such must be the case under this Constitution, and the President and Senate may admit, at will, any foreign nation into this copartnership, without the consent of the States. . . ."

"The government of the United States was not formed for the purpose of distributing

its principles and advantages to foreign nations. It was formed with the sole view of securing those blessings to ourselves and our posterity. It follows from these principles that no power can reside in any public functionary to contract any engagement, or to pursue any measure, which shall change the union of the States. . . . The President, with the advice of the Senate, has undoubtedly the right to form treaties, but in exercising these powers he cannot barter away the Constitution, or the rights of particular States. . . . The government having been formed by a union of States, it is supposable that the fear of an undue or preponderating influence, in certain parts of this Union, must have great weight in the minds of those who might apprehend that such an influence might ultimately injure the interests of the States to which they belonged; and, although they might consent to become parties to the Union, as it was then formed, it is highly probable they would never have consented to such a connection, if a new world was to be thrown into the scale, to weigh down the influence which they might otherwise possess in the national councils." . . . *

In the debate on the proposed amendment to the Constitution, mainly to the end that only one person should be voted for as President, instead of two, by the Electors of each State—which was adopted, and has been ever since in force—he said :

"There is another view of this subject which furnishes to my mind a conclusive argument against the proposed amendment. In all governments which have hitherto existed, in which the elective principle has extended to the Executive Magistrate, it has been impossible, for any length of time, to guard against corruption in the elections. The danger is not an imaginary one in this country. The office of President is at this time the great object of ambition, and, as the wealth and population of this country increase, the powers of patronage of the President must necessarily be extended. We cannot expect to escape the fate of other republics. Candidates for the office of President will arise who, under the assumed garb of patriotism and disinterested benevolence, will disguise the most unprincipled ambition. Corruption will be practiced by such candidates whenever it can be done with success.

"It is therefore an object of the first importance to regulate the election in such a manner as to remove, as far as possible, both the temptation and the means of corruption. If gentlemen will attend to the proposed amendment with reference to this point, they will find that the means and the temptation to corruption must be increased. As the Constitution now stands, the man who aspires to the office of President can at best but run the race on equal terms with some individual of his own party. In order to succeed he must not only obtain for himself and his associate a greater number of votes than his own political opponents, but he must obtain more votes than the associate himself. The chances of success are by those means rendered more remote, and, however desirable the office may be, the temptations to enter the list, or to make individual exertions, are diminished. The means of corruption must generally be found in the offices at the disposal of the President; and these, it is well known, constitute a fund of great extent; and when the election is brought to such a point as to rest with two candidates only, this fund may be used with

* Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States. . . . Eighth Congress . . . 1803-04. Washington, 1852, pp. 404, 461-62.

great success. . . . But so long as your elections remain on this present footing, the means of corruption are diminished, because the aspiring candidate can only promise this corrupt distribution of offices upon eventually succeeding to the Presidency ; and, as his chances of success are diminished by the mode of election, his promises are of less value to the Elector, and of course will be less frequently made and more generally rejected. . . .

"But there is one important lesson which the experience of that election [the election of Jefferson by the House of Representatives] has taught the people of the United States—it is this, that it becomes the great and solemn duty of Electors, upon all occasions, to give their votes for two men who shall be best qualified for the office of President. The Electors do not—they cannot—know which of their own candidates will succeed. They are therefore called upon by every sacred principle to select the most eminent of their fellow-citizens. They will be stimulated, on all future occasions, by the experience of the last election, to do, what I trust they have heretofore done—to give their votes for two men in either of whom they are willing to confide the Executive power of the Government. What then can induce us to change the form of our elections? Some gentlemen have said a great deal about the voice of the people, and declared that the people demand the alteration. This is a language too frequently used within these walls. The purposes for which it is used I leave to others to explain ; but it must be perfectly understood that the clamors of designing men are too often mistaken for the voice of the people. The people are rarely disposed to seek for changes, whilst they feel and enjoy the blessings of their old establishments. Be this as it may, we have been sent into this House to obey no voice but that of our own consciences and judgments." . . . *

One sees in all these speeches the qualities of his mind and character. But the most clear, terse, compact, conclusive and exhaustive of all his arguments was, probably, that which he delivered in 1802, on the question whether Congress has the power to remove judges, during good behavior, by abolishing their offices—a question which arose in the first session under Jefferson's presidency, with reference to appointments made at a late day of the administration of his predecessor. This argument has been considered one of the very ablest ever made in Congress ; yet its power so much depends upon its completeness that full justice cannot be done to it by extracting single passages. I venture, however, to quote the following :

"There is another strange position which has been advocated upon this occasion, and which deserves some attention because it has been often repeated. It is that, although you cannot remove the judge from the office, you may remove the office from the judge. To this extraordinary assertion I answer that the words of the Constitution admit of no such construction. The expression being that the judge shall hold his office during good behaviour, necessarily implies and secures a union of the office and the officer, so long as the officer shall behave well ; and a removal of the office from the judge destroys as effectually this union as the removal of the judge from the office could do. . . . If constructions of this kind can be admitted, there is not a crime which was ever perpetrated by man which cannot be justified. Sir, upon this principle, although you may not kill by

* Debates and Proceedings in the Congress . . . ut supra, pp. 749-52

thrusting a dagger into the breast of your neighbor, yet you may compel your neighbor to kill himself by forcing him upon the dagger ; you shall not murder by destroying the life of a man, but you may confine your enemy in prison, and leave him without food to starve and to die. These may be good distinctions in the new system of philosophy, but they can never be admitted in the old school. . . .

"The power given to the courts to pronounce on the constitutionality of laws would be entirely defeated in those times when the exercise of that power becomes most necessary, if the judges are not placed beyond the power of the Legislature. The idea of giving this power to the courts, and at the same time of leaving the courts at the mercy of that department over which the power is to be exercised, is rather too absurd for gentlemen even in these days of extravagance ; and gentlemen aware of this have had the confidence to deny that this power resides in the courts. . . .

"Sir, if there is no power to check the usurpations of the Legislature, the inevitable consequence must be that the Congress of the United States becomes truly omnipotent. All power must be concentrated here, before which every department and all State-authorities must fall prostrate. Admit this principle and nothing can resist the attacks of your national laws upon our State-sovereignties. Here is an end of your Federal government. A consolidation of the States is the immediate effect, and in a few short years these sovereignties will not even obtain the name

"I should now close the observations which I had to submit to the Committee upon this interesting question, had not the gentlemen on the other side of the House thought proper to involve in this debate a discussion of several topics not necessarily connected with the subject . . . and, although I cannot see their application, yet I am not disposed to set up my discernment as the standard of infallibility, and shall therefore now pay due respect to the path which these gentlemen have marked out. . . .

"The gentleman begins his remarks by saying that two parties have existed in this country from the commencement of the present Government : the one what the gentleman has been pleased to denominate a party of energy, and the other a party of responsibility ; the first, disposed to go forward with the affairs of the Government with energy, as they seemed right and expedient, and the other only in submission to the public will. Sir, it can be no news to the members of this Committee that two parties exist in this country, nor can gentlemen be ignorant that two parties did exist in the nation at the adoption of the Constitution ; the one consisting of its friends, and the other composed of its enemies ; nor is it necessary for me to say how the present have grown out of these original parties. It is sufficient for my present purpose to say that the parties alluded to by the gentleman from Virginia are characterized by prominent features, and cannot easily be mistaken. . . . One great feature which has characterized those whom the gentleman has been pleased to denominate the party of energy, has been their strong attachment to the present Constitution ; and a determination not only to leave each department to the exercise of its proper functions, but to support them in it. Their opponents, to say nothing of their attachment to the Constitution, have on the contrary been disposed to bring all the powers of the Government into the House of Representatives, and in that way to strip the other branches of their constitutional authority. . . .

"Again, this party of energy was disposed to establish and support public credit, in which their opponents did not agree. This party of energy was likewise determined to defend their country against the hostile attacks of the enemy, and to support the interests, the safety and honor of the nation ; their opponents, on the contrary, were disposed to

prostrate everything that was dear to the will of the enemy. One party was disposed to build up and support, while the others were, and still are, determined to pull down and destroy. . . .

"The public debt has been spoken of, and it has been charged as a crime that these solemn engagements, which were the price of our independence, and for the discharge of which the national faith was pledged, have been provided for by the old Administration. Sir, are we to understand that this crime is to be ultimately atoned for by wiping out the debt with a sponge? . . .

"The Indian war has also been alluded to in very extraordinary language, as an event which was greedily seized to enlarge the field of Executive patronage. Sir, the gentleman cannot intend to insinuate that the Indian war was excited by the Administration; the causes which produced that war are too publicly known to be forgotten or misunderstood. And has it indeed, at this time, become criminal for the Government to defend the inhabitants of our frontier from the attacks of the savages?

"The gentleman has likewise told us that the depredations upon our commerce by the Barbary Powers, and by the French cruisers, were made a pretext for commencing a Naval Establishment, and in this way of extending this hugbear of Executive patronage. Sir, this remark gives me no surprise. I know perfectly well that there is a party in this country who are opposed to our commerce and to our navy. I shall long recollect the depredations which were made upon our commerce by the French, and the difficulty with which gentlemen were persuaded to repel those depredations. I cannot forget that, before they would consent to our first measure of defence, the cruisers of France were capturing your ships within the Delaware Bay. It is certainly true that the old Administration was neither the enemy of commerce nor of the navy; and it is as certainly true that they were equally disposed to defend your citizens against Algerine slavery and the depredations of France. And to merchants and seamen of this country, and the community at large, I am willing to refer the question whether it was proper to surrender our commerce to the enemy, and give up our seamen to slavery, or defend both by an adequate Naval Establishment." . . . *

The representatives of some of Governor Griswold's confidential correspondents have been applied to for letters of his which might enrich this record; but time and the indifference of younger generations have rendered the application fruitless. Only one letter of this sort has been found, which is among the family-papers at Blackhall. Nor have many important letters addressed to him been handed down in the family.

The one confidential letter of Governor Griswold here referred to was addressed to Judge Elias Perkins of New London, Conn. It is highly worthy of preservation, both for its subject and its tone. As will be seen, it was called forth by the failure of the negotiations of the special envoys to France—Pinckney, Marshall and Gerry—in the time of the French Directory, under Talleyrand as Minister of Foreign Affairs, in 1797-98, respecting depredations on American commerce committed in pursuance of the war

* Debates and Proc. of the Congress. . . . Seventh Congress. . . . 1801-02. Washington, 1851, pp. 779, 783, 791-93.

then going on between France and Great Britain.* The letter is as follows:

“Philadelphia, June 20th, 1798.

“Dear Sir,

“I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant.

“The impressions which the reading of the dispatches from our Envoys have made on your mind, are such as every man must feel who is alive to the honour and interests of this Country; the only apology which I can form for the feeble display of spirit, which appears in their note to the minister of foreign relations, arises from the c——d situation into which they were thrown. Without knowing the real temper of this Country, Marshall and Pinckney were connected with a New-Englander who was supposed to represent the feelings and wishes of the New-England States: to disagree with such a man, placed in so important a situation, and representing at best a divided people, appeared like rushing on destruction: if by such a step they should lose the confidence of the Northern States, the Country must have been lost. From this consideration only can I account for their subscribing to expressions which must have put their pride and sentiments on the rack: the thing certainly admits of palliation, but after all I can hardly excuse these Gentlemen, as highly as I respect them, for the manner in which they consented to discuss the question of a Loan. But the business has gone past, and the mission is at an end, and we may rejoice that it has terminated so well. Marshall is here, and a description of what he and Pinckney have suffered . . . † is sufficient to render even their faults virtues.

“Your sentiments respecting the want of decision and spirit in this government correspond with my own: if Heaven did not take better care of us than we take of ourselves, we should sink never to rise again.

“The history of the world, in every page, demonstrates that no nation ever gained anything by forbearance or timidity—a bold, decided and manly administration allways has and allways will be crowned with success; even war itself, which the feeble-minded so greatly dread, can only be avoided by boldness; indecision and pusillanimity only invite aggression, and the neck that submits will allways decorate the gibbet. These truths have been exemplified in the progress of our disputes with France. Mr. Marshall now declares, what a great many preached two years ago, that, if this government had acted with spirit and decision one year ago, there would have been no difficulty in bringing the late negotiation to a fortunate issue. But what could be expected for a people who were kneeling at the footstool of French despotism? Justice has but little to do in the adjustment of disputes between nations, and, so long as America appeared willing to put on the chains of servitude, the Gallic Tyrants were willing to supply them. Would to God that our experience even at this time taught us wisdom; but an unaccountable spirit of timidity and weakness still prevails among a certain class of persons who are strongly attached to the Government; this conduct is gradually undermining the main pillar of our existence—it is sapping the foundation of that confidence on which alone our nation can rest; the truth really is that no one measure has been adopted by the Legislature for the national defence

* See History of the United States of America. By Richard Hildreth. New York, 1855, ii. 95 ff.; and Gibbs's Admin. of Washington and Adams. . . . ut supra, i. 558 ff. and ii. 2 ff.

† The imputations cast upon Gerry, in connection with this celebrated mission, have been fully set aside by a plain statement of facts, with documentary proofs, in the Life of Elbridge Gerry. . . . By James T. Austin. Boston, 1829. ii. 190-295.

which has not been forced upon it by the pressure of public opinion ; and the Government, consisting of all its departments, which ought by its united energy to give a tone to the public mind, and point out the path of honour and Independence, has been driven like chaff before a torrent of public spirit which could not be entirely resisted.

"I hope the return of Mr. Marshall will bring along with it new spirit and energy ; and those honest men who have heretofore sought for peace with meekness and humility, will at last learn that it is only to be found in firmness, energy & honour.

"Mr. Marshall declares that, in his opinion, the French have taken their ground in respect to this Country, from which they will not, without a new revolution in Paris, recede—that we are to expect nothing but War or Tribute, that we have our choice of these alternatives ; and I trust that the choice has been long since made in the breast of every American.

"I remain with esteem

Your friend & very Humble Serv^t

R. Griswold."

Of letters addressed to Gov. Griswold, preserved in the family, the following are all which it seems worth while to incorporate, either entire or in part, in this memorial:

"New London, January 18th, 1800.

"Dear Sir,

"I most sincerely concur with you in your sentiments on the death of Gen^l Washington. The citizens of this town joined last week with the garrison in paying funeral honors to the memory of the illustrious deceased—the proceedings were indeed solemn, and calculated to make a strong impression. May the honorable sensibility excited in this and other places have the effect to allay the envy and malignity naturally arising in narrow minds towards the authors of great and noble actions, and turn the whole attention on the distinguished merit of the mighty Chief! Happy will it be for this Country if his moral and political virtues should be the criterion by which the American character shall be formed.

"The concourse of people upon this mournful occasion, from this and the neighboring towns, was immense ; an address was delivered by Gen^l Huntington, & an oration by Lyman Law, which do honor to the performers. It must be wisdom in the friends of order to improve the present sensibility of the nation to our political advantage. And may the Hero, like Sampson, slay more of his enemies at his death than in his whole lifetime! Nations as well as individuals are governed by habit ; most people are willing to take the general opinion upon trust, if they can be freed from the trouble of investigating its propriety. Hence the importance of establishing right modes of thinking as well as acting. Let the principles of Washington be the rule of faith and practice, and our children be taught that his ways were pleasantness, and his *paths peace*.

"Your remark that the exertions of the Jacobins, this Election, would be powerful & violent, begins to be verified. We have had a specimen of it here within a few days. Our mechanics received a communication through Holt the Printer from the same body at New Haven. The ostensible object was to form mechanic societies through the State, and to have a general meeting at New Haven, to consult on measures for the benefit of the craft. You will readily see that this is no other than a different name for democratic societies. Few but Demos were invited to the meeting. By accident it became public, and the more respectable mechanics attended & voted the business down. . . .

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Marshall
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PART II.
Geo. Matthew Griswold
M. URSULA WOLCOTT

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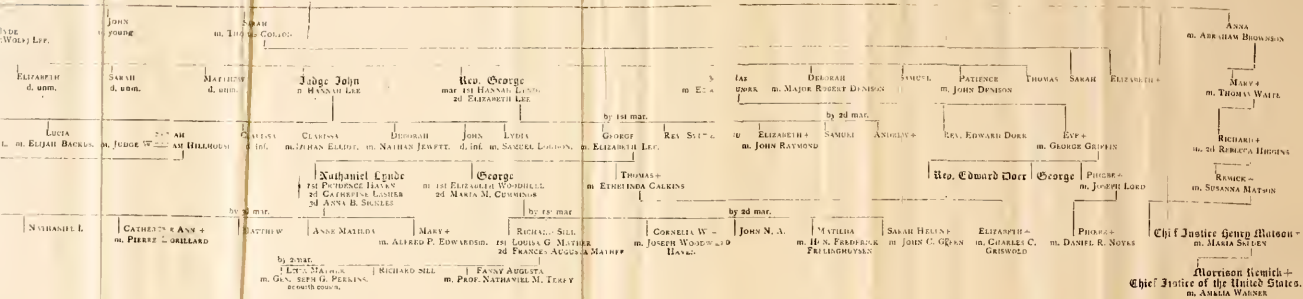
COL. CHARLES
ALEX. M. ELLEN E. PARKINS

m. EVA ROBLE

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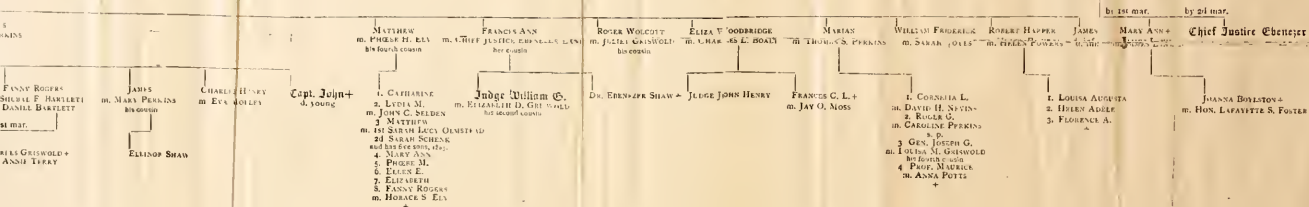
Pedigree of Griswold

+ This mark indicates either children, younger or older, not named.



Griswold Pedigree (continued)

DESCENDANTS OF GOVERNOR MATTHEW GRISWOLD.



"We have lately had a flood of political wickedness poured in upon us from Virginia. But I am perfectly confident that Connect^t has too much sense & integrity to become the contemptible tool of democratic cunning.

"I am, Sir, your friend &c.,

Elias Perkins."

"New London, Jan^y 28th, 1801.

"Dear Sir,

"Since it has been ascertained that no Federal President has been chosen, there seems to be, so far as my observation has extended, an almost perfect apathy on the subject of politics. The Democrats seem in a state of apprehension at their own success. They dread the idea of responsibility. Not having it in their power to grumble, it has given time for those that *can* reflect, and, having something to loose by a convulsion, to view with alarm the dangers that may arise from the ferment which they have occasioned. They dare not complain, but are wofully agitated lest Con^l Burr should supplant their favorite—but it is replied by the old school that 73, according to the most approved rules of arithmetic, is equal to 73; and that, according to republican principles, there is no way of ascertaining what is right and wrong but by the votes of the *sovereign People*.

"The most reflecting part of our State, and, I believe, all that would prefer a federal President to Mr. Jefferson, expect that the federal States will vote for Mr. Burr. I am decidedly of that opinion, and, admitting the Candidates to be equal in point of integrity, I believe that some very good reasons may be offered in favour of Mr. Burr which will not apply to Mr. Jefferson.

"Mr. Burr is from a State which is under a very powerful commercial influence; his connexion and speculations are subject to the same influence. It is, I believe, an undeniable fact, there is very little Jeffersonian theory and republican fanaticism in either of the leading parties of the State of New York. It is, I believe, wholly a contention for power that has induced certain Chiefs to join the opposition. If Mr. Burr is supported by the federalists, it may be an additional inducement for him to pursue federal measures, and probably unite the powerful State of New York in the New England politics. I can not in conscience express any regret that Mr. Adams is not chosen—it would be an up-hill business to support his administration.

"Whatever course you shall take, it will be presumed that you have acted from the best motive, and a full and adequate investigation of the subject. This will doubtless be the sentiment of Connecticut. We shall be anxious to hear the event; pray let us know as soon as it is determined. . . .

"I am, dear Sir, your friend & Humble Servant

E. Perkins."

"Philad. 3 Nov. 1801.

"My dear Sir,

. . . "But what have we to say but to lament the downfall of federalism, and the triumph of democracy—a triumph more compleat than its most sanguine partisans dared to hope for. In this State more than 1ths of the lower house, and a great majority of the Senate, are of the Party. Delaware has one of the same stamp for Governor, and Bloomfield reigns in New Jersey. Our City Elections were carried against us by a very small majority, and by a manœuvre that we hope will not again succeed.

"Do you keep stedfast in the faith, or do you, like the Eastern inhabitants of another region, worship the rising sun? The line of conduct which the president in his answer to the Merchants of New Haven professes his intention to pursue, and the character which he attaches to the Persons turned & to be turned out,* must, I should think, make considerable impression on the Public mind, and the Practice itself will have a most pernicious effect.

"We must wait for the next meeting of Congress, to be made acquainted with the system intended to be pursued; a majority of both houses will support the present Administration, and I cannot suppose that the talents of our federal Gentlemen, however exerted, can stem the torrent; so that none of their schemes will be abandoned from an apprehension of their being rejected. After the next apportionment of the representation, the Eastern States, unless firmly united, must lose their weight in the ballance. The great increase of population, altho' a subject of great exultation to many, ought, in my mind, to excite serious apprehensions—a new Interest will soon predominate, and will not that Interest clash with our own in some essential points, and be indifferent to many others which we esteem of the greatest importance?

"You see that, tho' no longer a public servant, yet, like many other private Men, the weight of public affairs still lay heavy on my shoulders, and that, not content with bearing my share of present Evils, I am looking into futurity for an addition to the burthen.

. . . .

"Sincerely Yours,

"Rob. Walsh."

"Norwich, 21 Feb^y 1802.

"My dear Sir,

. . . "I regret extremely to find the Judiciary system destroyed, fearing and believing it done with evident marks of contempt for the Government of our country—this great barrier being removed, there is no restraint to the passions of the now governing characters in Congress; and, when publick opinion, or rather the voice of the mob, becomes the law of our country, anarchy & confusion must follow; and I believe the supporters of that sentiment will, at some future day, when too late, mourn in bitterness the hour they promoted it, to the destruction of order. I have my fears that confusion is fast ripening to the state it was in in France, not that I expect a Guillotine, but a separation of the Union, a rising of servants against masters, & Virginia begging aid of the Northern States.

"By reports of the debates, or rather the rapid passage of every favorite measure of the Virginia Interest, it appears there is no use in our northern federal members remaining there—would it not be as well for you all to return home, and leave them to themselves? I think it probable some might feel the force of Mr. Morris's observation, and want the protecting force of the Judiciary to save them; it is said here that your business in the House of Representatives is finished to your hands before it comes into the house, and without the knowledge of about $\frac{1}{3}$ of its members—if so, *that* one third can only experience a mortification by being present at the passage of the business; if they have fortitude enough to bear it, and to stand ready to defend their own principles, much is due to them. . . .

* Alluding to the removal of Elizur Goodrich from the office of Collector of the Port of New Haven.

"I believe it is well known to you that the French spoliations were more severely felt by the commercial interest of this town & vicinity, in proportion to our members and capital, than almost any town or place that is within my knowledge, except Alexandria; a great proportion of our traders have been totally ruined, and others are great sufferers. We are now preparing a memorial to Congress, praying compensation for the claims we had against the French Government, which for some purpose have been bartered by our Government, and left us no other hope but in the justice of the Government. . . . Should justice be refused, I fear ruin will be attached to many, and bye and bye the commercial interest will be less tenacious of their sacred regard to the revenue. . . . We hope for the best, but, if driven to a pointed enmity to the revenue-system, it appears to me they could as effectually ruin it as the Virginia interest have ruined the Judiciary, not by a majority of only one, but by a unanimous vote. I feel a pride in the belief that our Connecticut Members of both Houses know the true interest of their country, and that it has a warm place in their hearts, which principle, united with their desire of justice, will secure them to us as advocates in this cause. . . .

"Y^r friend & serv^t,

"J. Howland.

"Hon^{ble} Roger Griswold Esq."

"Knoxville, Dec. 26th, 1803.

"Sir,

"The Exertions you have made to stem the torrent of Democratic Delusion, and to support the constitution of our country against the insidious attacks of the Demagogues who now rule, have induced me to address you on a subject which, if my opinions are correct, every Friend to the Constitution is interested in. I allude to the late requisition of the militia of this State by the General Government. Altho' we can not here obtain the Documents relative to this business, yet I believe no doubt can exist but that they were called on to assist in taking possession of Louisiana. The requisition has subjected a number of the People of this State to great inconvenience in hiring substitutes, and a large proportion of those who have been drafted have been fined for refusing to muster in. I see no Power given to the General Government by the Constitution to require the services of the Militia on such occasions, or to march them out of the United States; and, believing that the measure was illegal, I was determined not to submit to it, and have been fined 25 Dolls., as have also a number of the Inhabitants of this County; tho' I do not regard the sum, yet, as I am unwilling to support the present Administration further than my Duty as a citizen requires, I feel an Inclination that this business should be examined into. If you are of opinion, with me, that the requisition was unconstitutional, I hope you will endeavour to procure an investigation. If it has no other Effect, it will contribute to open the Eyes of the People of the Western Country, and discover what reliance can be placed on the hypocritical professions of attachment to the Constitution which the ruling Party are and have been so much in the Habit of making. The signatures of a large proportion of the People can easily be obtained to a remonstrance, if necessary. Trusting you will excuse the Liberty I have taken, I remain with sentiments of the Highest Esteem & Respect,

"Your Most Ob^t Serv^t,

"Tho: Emmerson."

"Hartford, 25 July, 1812.

"My dear Sir,

"I left home with an intention of visiting the seaboard, pursuant to an arrangement partially made when I took my leave of you at this place. Not having learned whether the orders you issued to the Major Genl. on the coast were executed, hearing nothing from you or our friends who accompanied you, and receiving intelligence that a British fleet had come into our waters, I felt it a duty to visit the region in and about *Lyme* at least, for the purpose of ascertaining the condition and the feelings of the good people in that quarter. Just as I was taking my departure, a letter was received from the Secretary of War, in answer to the despatch I forwarded immediately on my return from the session of the council. Copies of both are enclosed. Of the Secretary's letter I shall say nothing—it will speak abundantly for itself. My letter to him followed very closely the reasoning, and indeed the language, of the council. Their result having met your approbation, I did not feel myself at liberty to depart essentially from it. You will perceive, my dear Sir, the evident propriety that the reply to the Secretary should, if possible, proceed from your hand. Aside from this consideration which is in some degree personal, a new question arises out of the *declaration* of the President 'that the United States are in imminent danger of invasion,' and one perhaps which the council did not particularly consider. Altho' there is no difficulty in resisting this renewed requisition, on the ground that our second objection remains in full force, still I see not but the question above mentioned must be met.

"Mr. Dwight has just returned, and informs me you are on your way to Connecticut. I despatch an express, not for the purpose of hastening your journey, which for the sake of your health I beg you not to do, but to learn your wishes as to the course to be pursued. Shall the council be convened? This measure I had resolved to take by the advice of our friends here, and should have issued *letters missive* on Monday, if no intelligence had been received from you.

"Whatever directions you may please to forward shall be scrupulously obeyed. . . .

"I am, my dear Sir, in haste, but most sincerely & affectionately yours,

"J. C. Smith.

"His Excellency Governor Griswold."

The foregoing letter from Lieut.-Gov. John Cotton Smith is a valuable missing link in the correspondence between State-authorities and the General Government, on the subject of Secretary of War Dearborn's requisition for troops of the militia of Connecticut, to be ordered into the service of the United States, on the breaking out of the War of 1812. It does not appear among the letters and other documents, relating to this subject, published by Dwight in his History of the Hartford Convention. But more important and interesting, in the same connection, is the following draft of a letter written by Gov. Griswold, on the 4th of Aug., 1812, to Secretary Dearborn, which, it is believed, has never appeared in print, and was, perhaps, never sent. Being found among the family-papers, it is put on record here as an additional tribute to his memory. The date of the letter is the same as that of the meeting of the General Assembly of Con-

necticut, fully referred to by Dwight, in which Gov. Griswold's conduct in this affair was entirely approved.*

“Hartford, Aug. 4th, 1812.

“Sir,

“His Honour Gov. Smith has put into my hands your letter of the 14th of July, and it is with surprise I notice the construction you have put on my letter of the 17th of June. The unusual and exceptionable terms, also, in which your letter is expressed, have not escaped notice; I shall not, however, descend to any comment upon its particular expressions, but perform my duty to the General Gov't in giving the explanation which appears proper.

“When you communicated the request of the President, that any future requisition from General Dearborn for a part of the drafted militia might be complied with, it was uncertain whether such requirement would be made, or, if made, under what circumstances it might take place. Confident, however, that the President would authorize no requisition which was not strictly constitutional, and particularly that the order would not exceed the conditions of the Act of the 10th of April to which you had referred, I felt no hesitation in giving a general assurance that such requisition as the President might make through General Dearborn would be complied with. I then thought, as I do still, that decency and a due respect to the first Magistrate of the Union, required that my assurance should be general, and that no expression should be used which carried with it a suspicion that the President might transgress the Constitution in the direction he might give. I also expected that this early and general assurance would be considered as evidence of a disposition which has been uniformly felt in this State to execute every constitutional requisition from the general gov't. In whatever light, however, my expressions may have been viewed, I trust I shall be now understood, when I assure you that I did not intend, or expect to be understood, by the general language of my letter, or any expression it contained, to engage that I would execute any order which I thought, on consideration, to be repugnant to the Constitution, from whatever authority it might emanate. The light in which I have viewed the requisition now made through General Dearborn, has been already communicated by Gov. Smith; and it is only proper to add that my opinion of its unconstitutionality remains unchanged, and is happily confirmed by the unanimous opinion of the Council of this State.

“The new light in which you have presented the subject in your letter to Gov. Smith has received every attention, but cannot, in my judgment, change the opinion already formed. The war which has commenced, and the cruising of a hostile fleet on our coast, is not invasion, and the declaration of the President, that there is imminent danger of invasion, is evidently a consequence drawn from the facts now disclosed, and, I am compelled to say, is not, in my opinion, warranted by those facts. If such consequence were admitted to result from a state of war, and from the facts now mentioned, and which always must attend a war with an European power, it would follow that every war of that character would throw the militia into the hands of the National Gov't, and strip the States of the important right reserved to them. But it is proper for me further to observe that I have found difficulty in fixing in my own mind the meaning of the words *imminent danger of invasion*, used by Congress in the Act of the 28th of Feb^y 1805, and now repeated in your letter, as no such expression is contained in that part of the Constitution which author-

* See History of the Hartford Convention . . . By Theodore Dwight . . . New York & Boston, 1833, pp. 237-67.

izes the President to call the militia into service. Presuming, however, that some definite meaning, thought consistent with the Constitution, was at the time annexed to the expression, I have rather inferred that the Legislature must have intended only to include an extreme case, when an enemy had not passed the line of the State, but was evidently advancing in force to invade our country. Such a case would undoubtedly come within the spirit of the Constitution, although it might not be included in its literal expression. But whether the Congress of 1805 was justified in the expression, or not, is unimportant, there being no difficulty in the present case, as none of the facts disclosed permit anything more than slight and remote danger of invasion, which the Constitution could not contemplate, and which might exist even in time of peace.

"Whilst I regret this difference of opinion, upon a question of serious importance, I cannot doubt that the President will perceive that a sense of duty leaves no other course to pursue, and that the general government will speedily provide the troops deemed necessary for the defence of the coast of this State.

"I have the honour to be, &c."

"Cambridge, 3 Sept., 1812.

"Dear Sir,

"It is with great concern that we find your health so much impaired, especially at this perilous crisis. We do hope, however, that your long journey and the mineral waters, with the blessing of Heaven, will restore it. Could your Excellency visit Boston during the autumn, would not the journey be salutary to yourself and to our sickly Commonwealth? I am sure it would give the highest pleasure to our statesmen in Boston, and have no doubt it would be of good political effect. Should you do us this honour, any attentions of mine that might contribute towards the objects of your visit would be at your command; for, while your public services entitle you to such attentions from every citizen, they are peculiarly due to you from one who cherishes a very grateful sense of your early patronage, and who is,

"With great respect & regard,

"Your Excellency's humble servant

"A. Holmes.

"His Excellency Gov. Griswold."

Years before this, in the midst of Mr. Griswold's greatest activity, a disease of the heart had suddenly manifested itself; but, though he was thenceforth hopeless of cure, his activity never ceased. The letter last quoted—written by Rev. Dr. Abiel Holmes, author of "American Annals," and father of our poet Oliver Wendell Holmes, is only one of many proofs of a really tender solicitude manifested by the public as Mr. Griswold's health failed more and more. When death had come, a little over a month after the date of this letter, the common admiration and mourning found expression upon his tombstone, in the burial-ground of the family overlooking Blackhall River, in an epitaph by which it is still echoed, and will be transmitted to later generations:

"This monument is erected to the memory of his Excellency Roger Griswold, LL.D.,

late Governour of this State. He was born at Lyme, May 25th, 1762; and died at Norwich, Oct. 25th, 1812.

"He was the son of his Excellency Matthew Griswold, who had been Chief Justice of the Supr Court. His mother was daughter of Roger Wolcott, Esq., of Windsor, who was for many years Governour of this State.

"Gov. Griswold graduated at Yale College in 1780, and in 1785 entered upon the profession of law. At the age of 34 he was elected into the Congress of the United States. In 1807 he was appointed a Judge of the Supr Court, in 1809 Lieut. Governour, and in 1811 was elected Governour; upon all these eminent stations he conferred dignity and honour.

"Not less conspicuous by honorable parentage and elevated rank in society than by personal merit, talents and virtue.

"He was respected at the University as an elegant and classical scholar; quick discernment, sound reasoning, legal science and manly eloquence raised him to the first eminence at the bar.

"Distinguished in the National Councils among the illustrious Statesmen of the age. Revered for his inflexible integrity and pre-eminent talents, his political course was highly honorable.

"His friends viewed him with virtuous pride. His native State with honest triumph. His fame and honors were the just rewards of noble actions, and of a life devoted to his Country.

"He was endeared to his family by fidelity and affection, to his neighbours by frankness and benevolence. His memory is embalmed in the hearts of surviving relatives, and of a grateful people.

"When this monument shall have decayed, his name shall be enrolled with honor among the great, the wise and the good."

Governor Roger Griswold married, Oct. 27, 1788, Fanny daughter of Col. Zabdiel Rogers, a prominent Revolutionary patriot and officer, of Norwich, Conn., by his first wife, Elizabeth Tracy, descended from Mabel Harlakenden, whose ancestry, as is well known, has been traced back, through several English sovereigns, to Alfred the Great and Charlemagne.* Mrs. Roger Griswold survived her husband, and died Dec. 26th, 1863, at the age of ninety-six years. Their children were:

(1.) *Augustus Henry* (b. 1789); a shipmaster; who married Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Lansdale of Boxhill, Co. Sussex, England, and had by her two sons and a daughter. He was a man of brilliant natural parts, inheriting much of his father's genius. His eldest son is Roger Griswold, now of Lyme, who married Julia A. daughter of Joshua Wells of East Windsor, Conn., and has two sons and a daughter.

(2.) *Charles* (b. 1791); graduated at Yale College in 1808; a lawyer, but commonly distinguished as Col. Charles Griswold; Deacon of the First Church of Lyme from 1829; and a man active in all religious and other

* Walworth's Hyde Geneal., ut supra, ii. 1161-79, Appendices A & B.

public enterprises. The present Congregational church-edifice at Lyme, built in 1817, indirectly after a model existing in London, is a monument to his taste and public spirit. He married Ellen Elizabeth daughter of Judge Elias Perkins of New London, Conn., by his wife, Lucretia Shaw Woodbridge, and had several children. A daughter, Fanny Rogers, married: 1st. Shubal F. Bartlett of East Windsor, Conn., and, 2d. Daniel Bartlett, a brother of her first husband; and is now living at East Windsor: a son of hers is Charles Griswold Bartlett, now the Principal of a very successful family-school for boys at Lyme. Two of the sons of Col. Charles Griswold are James Griswold, Esq., graduated at Yale College in 1848, a lawyer of Lyme; and Charles Henry, a farmer of the same place, whose wife, Eva Morley, by birth is a descendant of Rev. Sylvanus Griswold of the fourth generation of our Griswold family of New England, above mentioned (see p. 149). Another son was John, graduated at Yale College in 1857, a gallant Captain of Volunteers in the late civil war, killed in the battle of Antietam.

(3.) *Matthew* (b. 1792); who married Phæbe Hubbard daughter of Col. Seth Ely, and settled as a farmer on the ancestral estate of Blackhall, in a house built by his father; where he lived to his eighty-eighth year, dying in 1880; and left his widow with several unmarried daughters. To these ladies I am chiefly indebted for the loan of family-papers used in this memorial. His only son, Matthew, is now of Erie, Pa., and has five sons, by two marriages. One daughter, Lydia Maria, married John C. Selden of Erie, Pa.; and another, Fanny Rogers, married Horace S. Ely of New York City.

(4.) *Frances Ann* (b. 1795); who married her first cousin, Judge Ebenezer Lane (see below), of Sandusky, Ohio, graduated at Harvard College in 1811, made LL.D. there in 1880, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio, a learned lawyer and scholar; and had a son, William Griswold Lane, the accomplished and amiable Judge of the Court of Common Pleas for the Fourth Judicial District of Ohio, who was born in 1824, graduated at Yale College in 1843, and died in 1877. William Griswold Lane married his cousin Elizabeth Diodate Griswold, a descendant of our first Matthew Griswold, on her father's side, through a brother of her husband's grandfather, Gov. Roger Griswold (see below), and, on her mother's side, through Rev. George Griswold of Giant's Neck (see p. 149).

(5.) *Roger Wolcott* (b. 1797); graduated at Yale College in 1818; a lawyer; who married his cousin Juliet, daughter of Thomas Griswold, niece of the New York merchants Nathaniel Lynde and George Griswold above mentioned; settled at Ashtabula, Ohio; had sons and daughters; and died in 1878.

(6.) *Eliza Woodbridge* (b. 1799); who married Charles Leicester Boalt of Norwalk, Ohio, a lawyer of high position; had several sons and two daughters; and died in 1878. One of the sons was John Henry, Judge of Common Pleas in Nevada, now of San Francisco, Cal. One of the daughters, Frances Griswold Lane, is now the wife of Jay Osborne Moss, a wealthy financier of Sandusky, Ohio.

(7.) *Marian* (b. 1801); who married Thomas Shaw Perkins, a lawyer, son of Judge Elias Perkins of New London, Conn.; and had eleven children. A daughter, Cornelia Leonard, was the wife of David Hubbard Nevins of New York, late of Waterford, Conn. Roger Griswold, one of Mrs. Perkins's sons, was a physician of New York, and afterwards lived on a plantation near Columbia, S. C., belonging to the family of his wife, a Perkins cousin of his. She survived him, without children, and is now living on an ancestral estate of her own in South Carolina. Another son of Mrs. Perkins is Gen. Joseph Griswold Perkins of Lyme, brevetted as General for services in the late civil war, whose wife is of Griswold descent through the Giant's Neck branch (see pp. 149-50). A third son is Professor Maurice Perkins, professor of chemistry in Union College. The only surviving daughter is Lucretia Shaw Woodbridge, a lady of unusual acquisitions and varied accomplishments, which she has applied in private teaching.

(8.) *William Frederick* (b. 1804); a captain in the China trade; who married Sarah daughter of William Noyes of Lyme; had two sons and two daughters; and died in 1851. He improved the leisure of his long voyages for much study and reading, by which he became a man of high culture.

(9.) *Robert Harper* (b. 1806); a shipmaster; who married Helen daughter of Edward Powers of Guilford, Conn., by whom he had three daughters and one son, the latter not now living. He was a favorite commander of packet-ships of the John Griswold Line, sailing between New York and London, a man of much reading, and, in his prime, of elegant manners and great personal beauty. He died in Lyme in 1882, after years of lingering infirmity and pain. His daughters, with their mother, now conduct a family-school for young ladies in their father's fine old house in Lyme, devoted more especially to instruction in the elegant branches, in which they are proficient.

(10.) *James*, who died in infancy.

We now return to follow out the succession of the children of Gov. Matthew and Ursula (Wolcott) Griswold:

4. *Ursula*, b. 1744; who died an infant.

5. *Hannah*, b. 1746; who died in childhood.

6. *Marian*, born Apr. 17, 1750; a very handsome woman; who married, first, Sep. 29, 1769, Charles Church Chandler of Woodstock, Conn., an eminent lawyer, "frequently a member of the State Legislature, and was elected to the Continental Congress"—who died in 1787—by whom she had several children. One of her daughters by this first marriage, Mary Ann, married James Lanman of Norwich, Conn., United States Senator and Judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, and had, with many other children, Joanna Boylston, who was the first wife of the late Hon. Lafayette Sabin Foster of Norwich, at one time acting Vice-President of the United States. Marian (Griswold) Chandler married, secondly, Captain Ebenezer Lane of Northampton, Mass., and had by him one child, Judge Ebenezer Lane (b. 1793), above mentioned. After the death of Capt. Lane in 1808, his widow married, thirdly, Justin Ely Esq. of West Springfield, Mass., whom she survived, without children by him, and herself died June 17, 1829. An obituary of Mrs. Marian (Griswold) Chandler-Lane-Ely, published at the time of her death, says of her:

"She was a woman of strong and vigorous intellectual powers. The earlier part of her life had been spent at a time when female education was considered (comparatively speaking) as of little or no consequence: of course, her advantages for mental improvement were not like those enjoyed by young ladies of the present day. Yet, by the judicious instructions of an estimable mother, subsequent reading, and an extensive observation of men and things, combined with a very retentive memory, her mind had been stored with such a fund of general information as rendered her not only a very agreeable, but a very useful companion—one whose society was courted by people of all ages. Remarkably active in her habits, and a great economist of time, she was ever, during the successive years of a protracted life, diligently employed in something to benefit herself or others, regarding it as an imperative duty to consecrate every moment, and every faculty she possessed, to some useful employment. Entitled by birth and family-connections (numbering among her nearest relatives five Governors, and many men of acknowledged talents, occupying the highest offices in the State) to an elevated rank in society, and placed by three successive marriages in a commanding sphere in life, she never cherished any of those contracted feelings of self-importance which too often characterize people of wealth and influence; but ever held up the idea and acted upon the principle, that intrinsic personal merit was all that could entitle a person to respect and esteem; and under the influence of this principle her affable and conciliating manners endeared her to all classes of her fellow-creatures with whom she was in any degree connected. She had lived through a long period of time, and been deeply interested in many eventful scenes, but amid them all had been heard to exclaim, 'It is the Lord, let Him do as seemeth Him good.' . . . We trust that she died in the faith of the Gospel. . . . †

* Hyde Genealogy, ut supra, ii. 892.

† For further notices of Mrs. Marian (Griswold) Chandler-Lane-Ely, and of her several husbands, see *The Chandler Family* . . . collected by George Chandler . . . Worcester, 1883, pp. 131, 279-82. In this book it is said that, "when first asked to become Mrs. Ely, her grief and surprise were manifested in her reply: 'Oh! I can't think of burying another husband' "!

7. *Ursula*, born Apr. 13, 1754, who inherited the Wolcott beauty; married, Nov. 22, 1777, her cousin Lynde McCurdy of Norwich, Conn.; had two sons and one daughter; and died Nov. 27, 1781. From her descends Hon. John W. Allen of Cleveland, Ohio (her grandson), formerly State Senator and Member of Congress, whose sister Ursula McCurdy is the widow of the late Judge Sherlock J. Andrews of Cleveland.

JOHN, the eldest child of Gov. Matthew and Ursula (Wolcott) Griswold, was born April 20, 1752; was deacon of the First Church of Lyme from 1797; married Nov. 5, 1772, Sarah daughter of Rev. Stephen Johnson of Lyme, by Elizabeth daughter of William Diodate of New Haven, Conn. (of the ancient and highly distinguished Diodati family of Lucca in Italy).* He was offered public offices of distinction, but preferred to remain in private life; and died Nov. 22, 1812. Their epitaphs in the Duck River Burying-Ground at Lyme are as follows:

"Deacon John Griswold was born at Lyme the 20th day of April, 1752, and died on the 22d day of November, 1812. He was the eldest son of the first Governor Griswold, and Brother of the second. As a friend & neighbor he was hospitable and generous, honest and honorable as a man, and in his faith and life exemplary as a Christian. To tell those who knew him the place where he was buried, and to offer his character for imitation to those who knew him not, this stone to his memory is erected."

"Sacred to the memory of Mrs. Sarah Griswold, the amiable consort of Deacon John Griswold, who died Jan^y 4th, 1802, aged 53 years, 10 mos. and 26 days.

"Sleep on dear friend till the last morn shall come,
When Christ shall summon all his children home.
Then may we meet in realms of joy above,
And join in bonds of everlasting love."

A funeral sermon preached on the death of Mrs. Sarah (Johnson) Griswold, by Rev. William Lyman of East Haddam, Conn., says: "She was a pattern of humility, gentleness, patience, tenderness and affection."

Their children were:

(1.) *Diodate Johnson*, born Dec. 16, 1773; graduated at Yale College in 1793; who married Sarah daughter of Benjamin Colt of Hadley, Mass.; and died Mar. 17, 1850, s. p.

* See Mr. William Diodate (of New Haven from 1717 to 1751) and his Italian Ancestry, in New Engl. Hist. and Geneal. Register. Boston, 1881, xxxv. 167-81.

(2.) *URSULA* (see below);

(3.) *Elizabeth*, born Oct. 15, 1778; who married, Mar. 28, 1802, Jacob Barker Gurley of New London, Conn., graduated at Dartmouth College in 1793, a lawyer; and died, a widow, June 22, 1857, having had ten children, all of whom except one she survived.

"She bore her great griefs with an almost stoical composure, and to her last days met her friends with a calm and cheerful mien."

(4.) *Sarah*, born Aug. 12, 1781; who married, Mar. 4, 1803, John Lyon Gardiner, Esq., the seventh proprietor of the Manor of Gardiner's Island, N. Y., by whom she had five children; and died Feb. 10, 1863. One of her children, Sarah Diodate, is now the widow of the late David Thompson of New York, whose daughter Sarah Gardiner is the wife of David L. Gardiner of New Haven, Conn. Her eldest son David J. was the last proprietor who received the island by entail; he was succeeded by his brother, John Griswold Gardiner; and he by his brother the late Samuel Buell Gardiner, the tenth proprietor of the manor.

"Mrs. Gardiner was a lady of much strength of mind and dignity of character. During a long widowhood she had the management of a large estate, and administered its hospitalities as a true 'lady of the manor.'"

(5.) *John*, born Aug. 14, 1783; an affluent shipping merchant of New York, head of the famous old line of London packet-ships which bore his name; who married, first, May 16, 1814, Elizabeth Mary daughter of General Zachariah Huntington of Norwich, Conn.; and secondly, in 1826, Louisa Wilson of Newark, N. J., an English lady (who survived him); and died Aug. 4, 1856, s. p.

In memory of Mrs. Elizabeth Mary (Huntington) Griswold the following lines were written by Mrs. Sigourney:

"She was as a rose
Gathered in loveliness 'mid perfumed flowers,
And warbling birds of love, yet drooping still
For the pure breath of that celestial clime
Where summer hath no cloud. She with firm hand
Grasped the strong hope of everlasting life,
And then, in trembling yet confiding trust,
Did dare the waves of Death's tempestuous flood."*

(6.) *Mary Ann*, born Feb. 25, 1786; who married, Nov. 6, 1809, Levi H. Clark of Middletown, Conn., a lawyer; and died Jan. 31, 1812. Mrs. Elizabeth Brainard (Clark) White, wife of Bushnell White Esq. of Cleveland, Ohio, is her daughter.

* Hyde Genealogy, ut supra, ii. 885.

(7.) *Charles Chandler*, born Nov. 9, 1787; who married, July 10, 1822, his cousin Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Griswold of the Giant's Neck branch (see above), by whom he had, with other children, Elizabeth Diodati, who married Judge William Griswold Lane, and Sarah Johnson, who married Lorillard Spencer (see p. 150); and died Jan. 27, 1869, leaving a widow who still survives in Lyme.

URSULA, second child and eldest daughter of Deacon John and Sarah (Johnson) Griswold, was born Dec. 2, 1775; married, Sept. 10, 1794, her third cousin Richard McCurdy; and died May 25, 1811.

"Mrs. McCurdy was of a warm and enthusiastic nature, and perhaps the Italian (Diodati) blood in the family-veins most fully expressed itself in her. She was affectionate, overflowing with kind words and deeds, devoted to her husband and children, and above all a devout Christian, leaving behind her, on her death at the early age of thirty-five, many religious writings."

Rev. F. W. Hotchkiss of Saybrook, Conn., said of her, in a funeral sermon: "As a daughter, sister, mother and wife she was a worthy descendant of an illustrious line of ancestors, and justly viewed as a woman of exalted spirit. . . ."

One of their children is Judge Charles Johnson McCurdy of Lyme, who, having served his country in various conspicuous and important positions, at home, and as representative of the United States in Austria, retired from the bench of the Supreme Court of Connecticut in 1867, on reaching the constitutional limit of age; but still retains much of the sprightliness and vigor of youthful years, to the delight and profit of all who come into the sunny atmosphere of his society. His only child, Evelyn, is the wife of the author of this paper. Another child of Richard and Ursula (Griswold) McCurdy was the late Robert Henry McCurdy of New York, a leading merchant and public-spirited citizen, one of the first and most influential movers in support of the Government in the late war; whose eldest son is Theodore Frelinghuysen McCurdy of Norwich, Conn., and second son, Richard Aldrich McCurdy, Vice-President of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. Mr. Robert Henry McCurdy had three daughters: the eldest of whom, Gertrude Mercer, is the wife of Hon. Gardiner Greene Hubbard of Washington, D. C., and mother of Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell; and the two others, Sarah Lord and Roberta Wolcott, are married, respectively, to Dr. Elias Joseph Marsh of Paterson, N. J., and Charles Mercer Marsh Esq. of New York. The fifth son of Richard and

Ursula (Griswold) McCurdy is Alexander Lynde McCurdy, now living, with two daughters, in Santa Barbara, California. The youngest child of the Griswold-McCurdy marriage was the late Mrs. Sarah Ann, widow of Stephen Johnson Lord of Lyme. She was admired in her youth for her great beauty, and in later years for the refinement, dignity and symmetry of her character. Two sons, now of Kansas City, Mo., survive her; and a daughter, the wife of Dr. Edward Dorr Griffin of Lyme, who is himself, also, a Griswold by descent, through the eminent lawyer George Griffin of New York, above mentioned.

Here the writer finishes his sketch of the history of the descendants of the first Matthew Griswold, covering a period of nearly two hundred and fifty years. They have not been very numerous, and there have never been many sons of the name. It is the record of a family that has been unusually free from the vicissitudes which are so apt, in the course of many generations of a family, to occur to lower the social standing of some of its persons or branches. It has numbered among its members by blood and marriage, as we have seen, many individuals of distinction, while, with only very few exceptions, all have been highly respectable in position and worthy in character.

Edward Elbridge Salisbury



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